

**NATIONAL COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO END CHILD
MARRIAGE IN NIGERIA (CSO-ECM Nigeria)**

Electoral Guidelines

Adopted by the General Assembly on 13 July 2026

Table of Contents

Article 1: Introduction	4
Article 2: Purpose of the Electoral Guidelines	4
Article 3: Guiding Principles	4
Article 4: Elective Positions	5
National Elections	5
State Elections	5
Adolescents and Youth Arm Elections	6
Persons with Disabilities Representative	6
Secretariat.....	6
Article 5: Electoral Committee	6
5.1 Establishment	6
5.2 Composition	6
5.3 Responsibilities.....	7
5.4 Neutrality	7
Article 6: Membership Re-validation and Voter Register	8
6.1 Membership Re-validation	8
6.2 Voter Register	8
6.3 Publication of the Register	9
Article 7: Voting Eligibility	9
Article 8: Candidate Eligibility	9
Youth Ambassadors	10
Representative of Persons with Disabilities.....	10
Article 9: Additional Eligibility for Co-Chair.....	10
Article 10: Eligibility for Zonal Steering Committee Representatives	11
Article 11: Withdrawal and Substitution of Candidates	11
11.1 Withdrawal.....	11
11.2 Substitution.....	11
11.3 Death or Incapacity.....	12
11.4 Withdrawal After Ballot Preparation	12
Article 12: Nomination Process	12

12.1 Opening of Nominations	12
12.2 Nomination Documents	12
12.3 Nomination Modalities.....	13
Article 13: Screening of Candidates	13
Article 14: Campaign Rules	13
Article 15: Voting Procedure.....	14
Article 16: Election of Various Offices.....	15
16.1 Election of Co-Chairs.....	15
16.2 Election of Zonal Steering Committee Representatives	15
16.3 Election of Youth Ambassadors	16
16.4 Election of the Representative of Persons with Disabilities	16
16.5 Election of State Focal Persons.....	16
16.6 Unopposed Candidates	17
Article 17: Vote Counting, Declaration of Results and Certification.....	17
Article 18: Complaints and Appeals	17
18.1 Right to Complain	17
18.2 Submission of Complaints	18
18.3 Determination of Complaints.....	18
18.4 Appeals	18
Article 19: Safeguarding and Ethical Conduct During Elections	19
Article 20: Conflict of Interest During Elections	19
Article 21: Role of the Secretariat During Elections.....	19
Article 22: Role of Election Observers.....	20
Article 23: Leadership Transition and Handover.....	21
Article 24: Election Report.....	21
Article 25: Election Timetable	22
Article 26: Interpretation	23
Article 27: Amendment of the Electoral Guidelines.....	23
Article 28: Transitional Arrangements.....	24
Article 29: Adoption and Commencement.....	24
Article 30: Final Provisions	24

Article 1: Introduction

These Electoral Guidelines establish the procedures for the nomination, election and transition of elected leaders of the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations to End Child Marriage in Nigeria (CSO-ECM Nigeria).

The Guidelines are intended to ensure that all elections of the Coalition are transparent, credible, democratic, inclusive, peaceful and conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Coalition.

These Guidelines shall be read together with the Constitution, Membership Policy, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy and any other governance instruments adopted by the Coalition.

Where there is any inconsistency between these Guidelines and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

Article 2: Purpose of the Electoral Guidelines

The objectives of these Guidelines are to:

- a. Provide a transparent and credible framework for the conduct of elections.
- b. Define the elective positions within the Coalition.
- c. Prescribe eligibility requirements for voters and candidates.
- d. Establish procedures for nominations, screening and campaigns.
- e. Regulate voting, counting of votes and declaration of results.
- f. Provide procedures for complaints and appeals.
- g. Promote peaceful leadership transition.
- h. Safeguard the integrity, inclusiveness and credibility of the Coalition's electoral process.

Article 3: Guiding Principles

The electoral process shall be guided by the following principles:

- a. Member ownership.
- b. One organisation, one vote.
- c. Transparency.
- d. Fairness.

- e. Accountability.
- f. Gender equality.
- g. Geographical representation.
- h. Inclusion of adolescents, young people and persons with disabilities.
- i. Safeguarding and child protection.
- j. Respect for diversity.
- k. Democratic participation.
- l. Peaceful competition.
- m. Integrity and confidentiality.
- n. Respect for the Constitution and these Guidelines.

Article 4: Elective Positions

The following positions shall be filled through elections conducted under these Guidelines:

National Elections

- a. Female Co-Chair.
- b. Male Co-Chair.
- c. North Central Steering Committee Representative.
- d. North East Steering Committee Representative.
- e. North West Steering Committee Representative.
- f. South East Steering Committee Representative.
- g. South South Steering Committee Representative.
- h. South West Steering Committee Representative.

State Elections

Each state chapter shall elect one State Focal Person.

State elections shall be conducted within two (2) weeks after the conclusion of the national elections.

Adolescents and Youth Arm Elections

The Adolescents and Youth Arm shall elect:

- a. One Female Youth Ambassador.
- b. One Male Youth Ambassador.

The Youth Ambassadors shall become members of the National Steering Committee in accordance with the Constitution.

Persons with Disabilities Representative

The representative of persons with disabilities shall be elected in accordance with modalities approved by the Electoral Committee and consistent with the Constitution.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is not an elective organ of the Coalition.

The Secretariat shall provide administrative and technical support to the Electoral Committee but shall not vote, supervise candidates or influence the outcome of any election.

Article 5: Electoral Committee

5.1 Establishment

The General Assembly shall constitute a five-member Electoral Committee for every election.

The Electoral Committee shall automatically cease to exist upon submission and acceptance of its final election report by the General Assembly or National Steering Committee, as applicable.

Its dissolution shall not affect the tenure or authority of the National Steering Committee.

5.2 Composition

Members of the Electoral Committee:

- a. Shall not contest any elective office.
- b. Shall be persons of proven integrity.
- c. Shall possess experience in governance, elections, safeguarding, civil society leadership or organisational management.
- d. Shall disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.
- e. Shall remain politically and organisationally neutral throughout the electoral process.

f. In constituting the Electoral Committee, the General Assembly shall, as far as practicable, ensure gender balance, geographical representation and an appropriate mix of governance, legal, safeguarding and electoral expertise.

5.3 Responsibilities

The Electoral Committee shall:

- a. Develop and publish the election timetable.
- b. Determine the modalities for nominations for each elective position.
- c. Determine the voting method for each election.
- d. Receive nominations.
- e. Screen candidates.
- f. Publish the list of qualified candidates.
- g. Verify and publish the voter register.
- h. Supervise campaigns.
- i. Conduct elections.
- j. Count and verify votes.
- k. Announce provisional results.
- l. Receive and determine complaints in the first instance.
- m. Publish final election results.
- n. Prepare and submit the final election report.

5.4 Neutrality

Members of the Electoral Committee shall remain impartial throughout the electoral process.

They shall not:

- a. Campaign for any candidate.
- b. Endorse any candidate.
- c. Influence voters.
- d. Disclose confidential election information.
- e. Manipulate any stage of the electoral process.

- f. Accept gifts, hospitality or any other benefit that could reasonably be perceived as compromising their impartiality.
- g. Any Electoral Committee member with an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest shall immediately disclose the conflict and recuse themselves from the affected matter.

Article 6: Membership Re-validation and Voter Register

6.1 Membership Re-validation

To ensure the credibility of the electoral process, the Coalition shall conduct membership re-validation before every election.

Each member organisation shall provide or confirm:

- a. Name of the organisation.
- b. State of operation.
- c. Geopolitical zone.
- d. Registered office and contact details.
- e. Name of the Head of the organisation.
- f. Name of the authorised Coalition representative.
- g. Name of the authorised voting representative.
- h. Membership category and status.
- i. Continued acceptance of the Constitution.
- j. Continued acceptance of the Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy and other governance instruments.
- k. Confirmation of continued participation in the Coalition.

6.2 Voter Register

Following membership re-validation, the Electoral Committee shall prepare a provisional voter register.

The register shall contain:

- a. Name of each eligible member organisation.
- b. State.
- c. Geopolitical zone.
- d. Authorised voting representative.

- e. Contact details.
- f. Membership status.

6.3 Publication of the Register

The Electoral Committee shall:

- a. Publish the provisional voter register.
- b. Allow members to request corrections or raise objections within the prescribed period.
- c. Determine all objections.
- d. Publish the final voter register.

Only organisations appearing on the final voter register shall participate in the election.

Article 7: Voting Eligibility

An organisation shall be eligible to vote where it:

- a. Is a Full Member organisation in good standing.
- b. Has completed membership re-validation.
- c. Appears on the final voter register.
- d. Has designated an authorised voting representative.
- e. Has accepted the Constitution and other applicable governance documents.
- f. Is not under suspension or disciplinary restriction.
- g. Is not under an unresolved safeguarding restriction.
- h. Has been a member of the Coalition for not less than six (6) months before the date of the election.
- i. Each eligible organisation shall have one vote only.
- j. No individual shall cast votes on behalf of more than one organisation.

Article 8: Candidate Eligibility

A person shall be eligible to contest an election where the person:

- a. Represents a Full Member organisation in good standing.
- b. Belongs to an organisation appearing on the final voter register.
- c. Has been nominated in accordance with these Guidelines.

- d. Has accepted the Constitution, Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.
- e. Has no unresolved safeguarding, fraud, corruption, abuse, harassment or other serious misconduct matter.
- f. Has declared any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.
- g. Demonstrates commitment to ending child marriage.
- h. Is willing and available to serve.
- i. Agrees to respect the outcome of a credible election.
- j. Represents an organisation that has been a member of the Coalition for not less than twelve (12) months before the election.
- k. Provides a letter of endorsement from the Head of the organisation.
- l. Where the candidate is not the Executive Director or Head of the organisation, the endorsement shall expressly authorise the candidate to represent the organisation in the elected office.

Youth Ambassadors

Candidates for Youth Ambassador shall:

- a. Be nominated in accordance with procedures approved by the Electoral Committee.
- b. Meet the eligibility requirements prescribed for Youth Ambassadors under the Constitution.
- c. Submit a letter of endorsement from the Head of their organisation.

Representative of Persons with Disabilities

The representative of persons with disabilities shall be elected in accordance with modalities determined by the Electoral Committee, provided such modalities are consistent with the Constitution.

Article 9: Additional Eligibility for Co-Chair

In addition to Article 8, a candidate for Co-Chair shall:

- a. Demonstrate proven leadership experience.
- b. Demonstrate commitment to the Coalition's mandate.

- c. Demonstrate the ability to represent the Coalition nationally and internationally.
- d. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders.
- e. Demonstrate integrity, accountability and sound judgement.
- f. Demonstrate knowledge of safeguarding principles.
- g. Be available to participate actively in Coalition activities.
- h. Demonstrate commitment to gender equality, inclusion and collective leadership.
- i. Be the Executive Director, Country Director or an equivalent senior executive of the member organisation.
- j. Have previously served on the National Steering Committee.

Article 10: Eligibility for Zonal Steering Committee Representatives

A candidate seeking election as a Zonal Steering Committee Representative shall:

- a. Meet all eligibility requirements contained in Article 8.
- b. Belong to a Full Member organisation located within the geopolitical zone the candidate seeks to represent.
- c. Demonstrate active participation in Coalition activities within the zone.
- d. Have the capacity to represent the interests of member organisations within the zone.

Each geopolitical zone shall elect one representative to the National Steering Committee.

The Electoral Committee shall determine the nomination and voting modalities for the election of zonal representatives and communicate them to members before the commencement of the election process.

Article 11: Withdrawal and Substitution of Candidates

11.1 Withdrawal

A candidate may withdraw from an election by submitting a signed written notice to the Electoral Committee before the deadline specified in the election timetable.

The withdrawal shall take effect upon acknowledgement by the Electoral Committee.

11.2 Substitution

Where a candidate withdraws before the close of nominations, the sponsoring organisation may nominate another eligible candidate within the nomination period.

After the close of nominations, substitution shall only be permitted in exceptional circumstances determined by the Electoral Committee.

11.3 Death or Incapacity

Where a candidate dies or becomes permanently incapacitated before the election, the Electoral Committee may:

- a. extend the nomination period;
- b. permit substitution; or
- c. take any other reasonable action necessary to preserve the fairness of the election.

11.4 Withdrawal After Ballot Preparation

Where a candidate withdraws after ballot papers or electronic ballots have been finalised, the Electoral Committee shall determine the most appropriate course of action and communicate its decision to members.

Article 12: Nomination Process

12.1 Opening of Nominations

The Electoral Committee shall announce the opening of nominations and publish:

- a. the positions available;
- b. eligibility requirements;
- c. nomination procedures;
- d. required nomination documents;
- e. nomination deadlines; and
- f. any additional modalities approved for that election.

12.2 Nomination Documents

Every candidate shall submit:

- a. the prescribed nomination form;
- b. an endorsement letter from the member organisation;
- c. a brief candidate profile;
- d. a statement of interest;
- e. a declaration of conflict of interest;

f. an undertaking to comply with the Constitution, Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy; and

g. any additional documents required by the Electoral Committee.

12.3 Nomination Modalities

The Electoral Committee shall determine the nomination modalities applicable to each election.

Such modalities may include nomination thresholds, endorsement requirements, submission procedures and verification processes.

The approved modalities shall be communicated to members before nominations open.

Article 13: Screening of Candidates

The Electoral Committee shall screen all candidates against the eligibility requirements prescribed in the Constitution and these Guidelines.

The screening shall consider:

- a. membership status;
- b. eligibility for the office contested;
- c. organisational endorsement;
- d. acceptance of Coalition governance documents;
- e. safeguarding compliance;
- f. declared conflicts of interest;
- g. disciplinary history;
- h. willingness and availability to serve; and
- i. any additional eligibility requirement applicable to the office.
- j. Following screening, the Electoral Committee shall publish the list of qualified candidates.
- k. Candidates who are not cleared shall receive written reasons for the decision and shall have the right to appeal within the period specified in the election timetable.

Article 14: Campaign Rules

Election campaigns shall promote unity, respect and issue-based engagement.

Candidates may communicate their experience, vision, priorities and proposed contributions to the Coalition.

Candidates shall not:

- a. buy votes or provide inducements;
- b. intimidate, harass or threaten voters;
- c. publish false or misleading information;
- d. defame another candidate;
- e. campaign using religion, ethnicity, political affiliation, regional prejudice or hate speech;
- f. misuse Coalition platforms or confidential information;
- g. falsely claim endorsement by the Coalition, Girls Not Brides, the Electoral Committee or the Secretariat;
- h. promise access to funding, travel, contracts, employment or other benefits in exchange for support;
- i. engage in any conduct that may bring the Coalition into disrepute.
- j. The Electoral Committee may caution, sanction or disqualify a candidate who commits a serious violation of these Guidelines, after giving the candidate an opportunity to respond.

Article 15: Voting Procedure

The Electoral Committee shall determine the voting method for each election and communicate the approved procedure to all eligible voters before polling. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that the voting process is accessible to persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations where required.

Voting may be conducted through:

- a. physical balloting;
- b. virtual voting;
- c. secure electronic voting;
- d. secret ballot;
- e. open ballot; or
- f. any other transparent method approved by the Electoral Committee.

The voting procedure adopted shall ensure that:

- a. only eligible organisations vote;
 - b. each eligible organisation votes only once;
 - c. voting is conducted by the authorised voting representative;
 - d. votes are accurately counted;
 - e. ballot secrecy is protected where applicable;
 - f. election records are properly maintained;
 - g. the integrity of the election is preserved.
- h. The Electoral Committee may issue detailed voting instructions before each election where necessary. Where electronic voting is used, the Electoral Committee shall take reasonable measures to ensure the security, confidentiality, integrity and auditability of the voting system.

Article 16: Election of Various Offices

16.1 Election of Co-Chairs

The Coalition shall elect two Co-Chairs:

- a. One Female Co-Chair.
- b. One Male Co-Chair.
- c. The Electoral Committee shall determine and communicate the nomination and voting modalities before the commencement of the election.
- d. Each eligible member organisation shall vote in accordance with the approved voting procedure.
- e. The candidate receiving the highest number of valid votes for each position shall be declared elected.
- f. Where there is a tie, the Electoral Committee shall conduct a run-off election between the tied candidates.

16.2 Election of Zonal Steering Committee Representatives

1. Each geopolitical zone shall elect one representative to the National Steering Committee.
2. Only eligible member organisations from the relevant geopolitical zone shall participate in the election for that zone.

3. The Electoral Committee shall determine the nomination and voting modalities and communicate them before the election.
4. The candidate receiving the highest number of valid votes shall be declared elected.
5. Where there is a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted.

16.3 Election of Youth Ambassadors

The Adolescents and Youth Arm shall elect:

- a. One Female Youth Ambassador.
- b. One Male Youth Ambassador.
- c. The election shall be conducted in accordance with modalities determined by the Electoral Committee, in consultation with the leadership of the Adolescents and Youth Arm.
- d. The elected Youth Ambassadors shall become members of the National Steering Committee in accordance with the Constitution.

16.4 Election of the Representative of Persons with Disabilities

- a. The representative of persons with disabilities shall be elected using modalities determined by the Electoral Committee.
- b. The Electoral Committee shall ensure that the process promotes inclusion, accessibility, transparency and fairness.

16.5 Election of State Focal Persons

- a. Each State Chapter shall elect one State Focal Person.
- b. State elections shall commence immediately after the conclusion of the national elections and shall be completed within two (2) weeks.
- c. The Electoral Committee shall issue minimum standards for state elections, while allowing each state reasonable flexibility in conducting its election, provided that the process remains transparent, democratic and consistent with the Constitution.
- d. Each state shall submit the certified election result to the National Secretariat immediately after the election.
- e. The National Electoral Committee may deploy observers or provide technical support to state elections where necessary to ensure compliance with these Guidelines.

16.6 Unopposed Candidates

- a. Where only one eligible candidate is nominated for an elective office, the Electoral Committee may declare the candidate elected unopposed.
- b. Where considered necessary in the interest of legitimacy or member confidence, the Electoral Committee may require a confirmation vote.

Article 17: Vote Counting, Declaration of Results and Certification

Immediately after the close of voting, the Electoral Committee shall count or verify all votes.

Election results shall indicate:

- a. the office contested;
- b. the names of all candidates;
- c. the number of valid votes received by each candidate;
- d. the number of invalid or rejected votes, where applicable;
- e. the total number of votes cast; and
- f. the declared winner.
- g. The Electoral Committee shall announce provisional results within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of voting.
- h. All provisional results shall remain subject to complaints and appeals.
- i. Upon conclusion of the complaints process, the Electoral Committee shall certify and publish the final election results.
- j. Where a run-off election also results in a tie, the Electoral Committee shall determine an appropriate transparent method for resolving the tie and shall communicate the procedure to eligible voters before the subsequent vote.

Article 18: Complaints and Appeals

18.1 Right to Complain

Any eligible member organisation or candidate who believes that these Guidelines have been breached may submit a complaint.

Complaints may relate to:

- a. voter eligibility;
- b. candidate eligibility;
- c. campaign misconduct;
- d. voting irregularities;
- e. counting of votes;
- f. conflicts of interest;
- g. safeguarding concerns; or
- h. any other matter capable of affecting the credibility of the election.

18.2 Submission of Complaints

Complaints shall:

- a. be submitted in writing;
- b. be signed by the complainant;
- c. be sent by email or any other approved means;
- d. include supporting evidence where available; and
- e. be submitted within the timeline specified by the Electoral Committee.

18.3 Determination of Complaints

The Electoral Committee shall:

- a. acknowledge receipt;
- b. investigate the complaint fairly;
- c. provide affected persons an opportunity to respond;
- d. determine the complaint within a reasonable period; and
- e. communicate its decision in writing.

18.4 Appeals

- a. A person dissatisfied with the decision of the Electoral Committee may appeal to an independent Election Appeals Panel appointed by the General Assembly or, where the General Assembly is not in session, by the National Steering Committee.
- b. Members of the Electoral Committee shall not serve on the Election Appeals Panel.
- c. The decision of the Election Appeals Panel shall be final.

Article 19: Safeguarding and Ethical Conduct During Elections

Every election conducted under these Guidelines shall comply with the Coalition's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.

The Electoral Committee shall ensure:

- a. safe reporting channels;
- b. confidentiality;
- c. protection against retaliation;
- d. respectful communication;
- e. safe participation of adolescents, young people and vulnerable persons; and
- f. immediate response to safeguarding concerns.
- g. A candidate against whom there is an unresolved safeguarding allegation may be suspended from the electoral process pending determination of the matter.
- h. All participants shall conduct themselves in a manner that protects the dignity, integrity and reputation of the Coalition.

Article 20: Conflict of Interest During Elections

Every candidate, Electoral Committee member, observer, Secretariat staff member and election official shall disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.

Where such conflict exists, the affected person shall withdraw from participation in the affected decision or process.

The Electoral Committee shall maintain a confidential register of all conflict-of-interest declarations made during the election.

Failure to disclose a material conflict of interest may constitute misconduct under these Guidelines.

Article 21: Role of the Secretariat During Elections

The Secretariat shall provide administrative and technical support to the Electoral Committee throughout the electoral process.

The Secretariat may:

- a. Issue election notices and communications.
- b. Maintain election records and documentation.
- c. Support the preparation of the voter register.

- d. Provide logistical and administrative support.
- e. Support virtual or electronic voting arrangements where applicable.
- f. Maintain election archives.
- g. Support preparation of the final election report.

The Secretariat shall remain impartial throughout the electoral process and shall not:

- a. Campaign for any candidate.
- b. Influence voting.
- c. Determine election outcomes.
- d. Interfere with the independence of the Electoral Committee.

Article 22: Role of Election Observers

The Electoral Committee may invite independent observers to enhance transparency and public confidence in the electoral process.

Observers may include representatives of:

- a. Girls Not Brides.
- b. Partner organisations.
- c. Independent civil society organisations.
- d. Other persons approved by the Electoral Committee.

Observers may:

- a. Observe the electoral process.
- b. Submit observations and recommendations.

Observers shall not:

- a. Vote.
- b. Campaign.
- c. Interfere with election proceedings.
- d. Influence voters.
- e. Participate in decision-making.

Article 23: Leadership Transition and Handover

Following certification of the final election results, outgoing leaders shall conduct a formal handover to the newly elected leadership.

The handover shall be completed within one (1) month after certification of the election results.

The handover shall include, where applicable:

- a. Governance documents.
- b. Membership records.
- c. Election records and reports.
- d. Minutes of meetings.
- e. Financial records.
- f. Access to official communication platforms.
- g. Partner and stakeholder information.
- h. Safeguarding records, subject to confidentiality requirements.
- i. Ongoing workplans, projects and commitments.
- j. Legal registration documents.
- k. Any Coalition property or assets.

The Secretariat shall coordinate and document the handover process.

Article 24: Election Report

Within a reasonable period after the completion of the election process, the Electoral Committee shall prepare a comprehensive Election Report.

The report shall include:

- a. Background to the election.
- b. Composition of the Electoral Committee.
- c. Election timetable.
- d. Summary of the voter register.
- e. Positions contested.
- f. List of candidates.
- g. Voting method adopted.

- h. Election results.
- i. Complaints received and their resolution.
- j. Safeguarding or ethical issues addressed during the election.
- k. Lessons learned.
- l. Recommendations for future elections.

The report shall be submitted to:

- a. The General Assembly.
- b. The National Steering Committee.
- c. The Secretariat.
- e. The report shall form part of the permanent governance records of the Coalition.

Article 25: Election Timetable

The Electoral Committee shall prepare and publish a timetable for every election.

The timetable shall include, at a minimum:

- a. Membership re-validation.
- b. Publication of the provisional voter register.
- c. Period for corrections and objections.
- d. Publication of the final voter register.
- e. Opening and closing of nominations.
- f. Screening of candidates.
- g. Publication of the final list of qualified candidates.
- h. Campaign period.
- i. Election date.
- j. Declaration of provisional results.
- k. Complaints and appeals period.
- l. Certification of final results.
- m. Leadership handover.

n. The Electoral Committee may amend the timetable where necessary, provided that members are informed promptly; no candidate gains an unfair advantage; and the credibility of the election is not compromised.

o. State elections shall commence immediately after the certification of the national election results and shall be concluded within two (2) weeks.

Article 26: Interpretation

Unless the context otherwise requires:

“Coalition” means the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations to End Child Marriage in Nigeria.

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the Coalition.

“Electoral Committee” means the committee established to conduct elections under these Guidelines.

“Full Member” means a member organisation in good standing as defined by the Constitution.

“State Focal Person” means the elected coordinator of the Coalition in a state.

“Youth Ambassador” means an elected representative of the Adolescents and Youth Arm.

Words importing the **masculine gender** include the feminine gender and vice versa.

Words in the **singular** include the plural and vice versa where the context admits.

Article 27: Amendment of the Electoral Guidelines

These Electoral Guidelines may be amended by the General Assembly.

Any proposed amendment shall:

- a. be submitted in writing;
- b. be circulated to members before the meeting at which it is to be considered; and
- c. be approved by the required majority under the Constitution.
- d. The Electoral Guidelines should be reviewed after every election to incorporate lessons learned and improve future electoral processes.

Article 28: Transitional Arrangements

Where these Guidelines are applied for the first election conducted under the revised Constitution, the Electoral Committee may issue supplementary directions to facilitate implementation, provided that such directions are consistent with the Constitution and these Guidelines.

Article 29: Adoption and Commencement

These Electoral Guidelines were adopted by the General Assembly of the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations to End Child Marriage in Nigeria on **13 July 2026**.

They shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Article 30: Final Provisions

These Guidelines shall be read together with the Constitution of the Coalition.

Where any provision of these Guidelines conflicts with the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

Every member organisation, candidate, election official, observer and participant shall comply with these Guidelines throughout the electoral process.

The success of every election depends on the commitment of all participants to fairness, integrity, transparency, accountability and the collective interest of the Coalition.