

# Report on Constitution Amendment: Removal of Candidacy Fees

*Prepared by the Constitution Amendment Committee*

## Introduction

In response to basic and common democratic principles and in adherence to the recommendations by the Velferdsetaten Oslo (VEL), the Non-resident Nepali Association, National Coordination Council – Norway (NRNA NCC Norway), in conjunction with the Constitution Amendment Committee (CAC), conducted a Special General Assembly on December 30, 2023. The primary agenda was to deliberate on and amend Article 5.1.6 of the NRNA NCC Norway's constitution concerning candidacy fees in elections.

## Background

The practice of candidacy fees within NRNA NCC Norway's election process was subject to scrutiny due to its departure from Norwegian democratic norms. Through consultation with VEL, it was recognized that such fees might contradict democratic principles by potentially hindering participation and equal opportunities in the electoral process.

## Preparation and Engagement

To ensure transparency and inclusivity, the Executive Committee (EC) of NRNA NCC Norway proactively informed all registered members one month before the Special General Assembly. Additionally, the Constitution Amendment Committee opened Google Forms to solicit suggestions and opinions from the membership regarding the candidacy fees provision.

During this period, the committee received three distinct comments:

**Request for Removal:** Two comments strongly advocated for the removal of the provision regarding candidacy fees.

**Communication Sharing:** One comment suggested disseminating the communication with VEL concerning the candidacy fees.

## Special General Assembly

The Special General Assembly was held physically and virtually at the organization's office, allowing widespread participation. In a unanimous decision, the registered members present in the assembly collectively voted to eliminate the provision of candidacy fees from the organization's constitution.

## Conclusion

This amendment signifies the commitment of NRNA NCC Norway to uphold democratic values and inclusivity within its electoral processes. The decision made during the Special General Assembly, supported by the engagement and feedback from our members, reflects our responsiveness to evolving democratic principles and alignment with recommendations from external stakeholders, such as VEL.

Moving forward, the Constitution Amendment Committee remains dedicated to promoting an inclusive and democratic environment within the organization, ensuring equitable opportunities for participation in the electoral process.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Constitution Amendment Committee*

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