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30 July 2018

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CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION OF THE COMOROS

30 July 2018

PREAMBLE

The Comorian people solemnly affirm their will to:

- cultivate a national identity based on a sole people, a sole religion (Sunni Islam) and a sole language;
- promote religious and moral practices of a nature to assure an education which reinforces the national conscience;
- develop sport and culture as elements of promotion of the national spirit;
- guarantee the pursuit of a common destiny among all Comorians;
- make of the return of the island of Mayotte within its natural whole, a national priority;
- emphasize [*marquer*] their commitment to the principles of the fundamental rights such as they are defined by the Charter of the United Nations, that of the African Union [*l'Unité Africaine*], the Pact of the League of the Arab States, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man of the United Nations, the African Charter on the Rights of Man and of Peoples, as well as the international conventions, notably those concerning the rights of the child and of the woman.

It equally affirms:

- its determination to establish [*asseoir*] a State of law founded on the principle of the sovereignty of the people and of democracy, instituting a range [*éventail*] of rights, of duties, of freedoms and of guarantees for all citizens and a system of government founded on the separation of powers, and a public administration at the services of citizens and of development;
- its commitment to promote and reinforce the ways [*voies*] and means aiming to prevent, fight and eradicate corruption, the embezzlement of public assets and funds, which obstruct the efforts tending to promote democratic governance, socio-economic transformation, peace and security.

It demands of the authorities to criminally prosecute or have prosecuted the authors of the above-mentioned acts.

It expresses its fundamental opposition to arbitrary [acts], to regionalism, to separatism and to any other act infringing the territorial integrity and the national unity.

Taking into account the principal recommendations formulated by the assembly of the *Assises Nationales* [National Assizes/Conference] of February 2018, this Constitution aims to establish an institutional framework permitting the advent of an era of democratic, social, economic and cultural renewal, within a climate of peace and of justice.

This preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

TITLE I
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS
CHAPTER I
OF THE UNION OF THE COMOROS

Article 1

The Union of the Comoros is a sovereign, unitary and democratic Republic that guarantees the respect for the dignity of the persons and recognizes the inviolability and the inalienability of Human Rights as [the] foundation for every human community, for peace and for justice.

Article 2

The Union of the Comoros recognizes equally the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of race, of sex, of religion, of political conviction, and assures the full enjoyment of the fundamental freedoms for all citizens.

Article 3

Sovereignty belongs to the people who exercise it by their representatives or by way [*voie*] of referendum. No section of the people nor any individual may arrogate its exercise.

Suffrage may be direct or indirect within the conditions provided for by the Constitution and the law. It is always universal, equal and secret.

All Comorians of the two sexes enjoying their civil and political rights[,] are electors, within the conditions determined by the law.

Article 4

The State submits itself to the Constitution, supports itself on [*s'appuie*] democratic legality, respects the laws and has [them] respected.

Article 5

All those considered as such by the law or by virtue of an international convention are Comorian citizens.

Outside of the cases where the law provides otherwise, no Comorian of birth may be deprived of their nationality.

Article 6

The territory of the Union of the Comoros is composed of:

- the islands and islets of Mwali (*Mohéli*), Maoré (*Mayotte*), Ndzuwani (*Anjouan*) and Ngazidja (*Grande Comore*).
- the archipelagic waters and the territorial sea as defined by the law and the international conventions, as well as the respective seabed [*lits*] and the subsoil;
- of the airspace situated above the geographic zones mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

Article 7

The Union of the Comoros holds sovereign rights in matter of conservation, of exploitation and of determining the value [*mise en valeur*] of the living and non-living natural resources in the contiguous zone, in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf as defined by the law, and has competence over these regions, by virtue of internal right and of the rules of international law.

The State may not alienate any parcel of the national territory or any sovereign rights it exercises over it.

Article 8

The State has as fundamental missions:

- to preserve the independence and the integrity of the territory, to guarantee the unity of the Comorian Nation and to create the political, economical, social and cultural conditions required to this effect.
- to guarantee respect for Human Rights and to assure to all citizens the full exercise of their rights and of their fundamental freedoms;
- to guarantee respect for the republican form of government and of the principles particular to a State of democratic law;
- to guarantee the democratic policy and the democratic participation of the citizens in the organization of political power and in the other aspects of the political and social life of the Nation;
- to promote the well-being and the quality of life of the Comorian people;
- to encourage social solidarity, the autonomous organization of civil society, [and] individual merit, initiative and creativity;
- to bring its support to the Comorian community spread throughout the world for participation in the economic development of the country and to favor from within the preservation and the development of Comorian culture;
- to promote instruction, culture, scientific research, the diffusion and the utilization of new technologies as well as the propagation of Comorian culture in the world;
- to protect the landscape, nature, the natural resources and the environment, as well as the historic, cultural and artistic patrimony of the Nation;
- to guarantee to the foreigners residing in [a] permanent or temporary manner in the Comoros or in transit on the national territory, a treatment in accordance with international rules, within respect for Human Rights, and the exercise of the rights that are not exclusively reserved to Comorian citizens by virtue of the Constitution or by the law.

Article 9

The flag, the seals and the national anthem are the symbols of the Union of the Comoros and of national sovereignty.

The national flag is composed of four horizontal bands of equal width, superimposed, arranged in the direction of the length, of color, yellow, white, red and blue, starting from the top to the bottom. A green isosceles triangle is placed [*appui*] on the side of the pole. A white crescent is figured [*y figure*], [with] four white stars aligned from one end to the other of the crescent.

The national anthem is: *Umodja Wa Massiwa*.

The motto of the Union is: “*Unité – Solidarité – Développement*” [Unity-Solidarity-Development].

The official languages are Shikomor, [the] national language, French and Arabic.

The seal of the State is determined by the law.

Article 10

Moroni is the capital of the Union of the Comoros; a law determines its status.

An organic law determines the islands where the Institutions of the Union sit, if the circumstances so require.

CHAPTER II
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW

Article 11

The international relations of the Union of the Comoros are governed by the principles of the national independence, of the respect for international law and for Human Rights, of the equality between States, of non-interference in the internal affairs of foreign nations, of the reciprocity of advantages granted, of cooperation with all other peoples and of peaceful coexistence.

The Union of the Comoros commits to providing to the international organizations, in particular the Organization of the United Nations, the African Union and the League of the Arab States, all the collaboration necessary with a view to finding a peaceful solution to conflicts and assuring international peace and justice as well as respect for Human Rights and for the fundamental freedoms; it equally supports all the efforts of the international community aiming to guarantee respect for the principles consecrated in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Union of the Comoros commits to reinforcing African identity, unity and integration and to support the actions of cooperation in favor of development, of democracy of progress and of the well-being of peoples, of respect for Human Rights, peace and justice.

Article 12

The treaties of peace, the treaties of commerce, the treaties or agreements related to international organization, those which engage the finances of the State, those which modify the provisions of [a] legislative nature, those which are related to the status [*état*] of the persons, those which include cession, exchange or adjunction of territory, may only be ratified or approved by virtue of a law. They only take effect after being ratified or approved.

If the Supreme Court, referred to [the matter] by the President of the Union, by the President of the Assembly of the Union or by the Governors of the Islands, declares that an international commitment includes a clause contrary to the Constitution, the authorization to ratify it or approve it may only intervene after the revision of the Constitution.

The treaties or agreements regularly ratified have from their publication an authority superior to that of the laws of the Union, under reserve, for each agreement or treaty, of its application by the other party.

TITLE II
RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 13

The State recognizes the inviolability of the rights and freedoms consecrated in the Constitution and guarantees their protection.

Article 14

The State and the other public organs [*organismes*] are civilly responsible for the actions or omissions of their agents, committed in the exercise of their public functions or by virtue of these, thereby infringing in whatever manner the rights,

the freedoms and the guarantees of those to whom these rights are granted or of third parties [*personnes*].

Article 15

The right to access to justice and to defense, is guaranteed to all citizens, as well as the right to obtain of the tribunals decisions in a reasonable time period.

Article 16

The Comorian citizens residing or finding themselves abroad enjoy the rights, the freedoms and the guarantees consecrated in the Constitution, and are subject to the duties established in it [y] on condition that this is not incompatible with their absence from the national territory.

Article 17

The law may provide for restrictions on the exercise of the political rights and to the accession to certain public functions or employments for Comorian citizens of foreign origin.

Article 18

Foreigners residing or sojourning on the national territory enjoy the same rights, the same freedoms, the same guarantees and have the same duties as the Comorian citizens, with the exception of the political rights and the rights and duties reserved by virtue of the law or of the Constitution to national citizens.

Foreigners may exercise public functions of an essentially technical character, in accordance with the law.

Article 19

The rights, the freedoms and the guarantees may not be made the object of suspension except in case of declaration of the state of siege or of the state of urgency, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

CHAPTER II

RIGHTS, [AND] INDIVIDUAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOMS

Section I

Individual Rights and Freedoms

Article 20

The physical and moral integrity of persons is inviolable.

No one may be submitted to torture, or to cruel, degrading or inhuman penalties or treatments

Article 21

The right to liberty is inviolable.

The freedom of thought and of expression, of association, of intellectual, artistic or cultural creation, of manifestation and the other freedoms consecrated by the Constitution, the laws and by the international law received within the juridical internal order[,] are guaranteed.

Article 22

All citizens enjoy the right to liberty and to security. No one may be deprived of their liberty totally or partially, except by virtue of the law or by a decision of justice.

Article 23

No Comorian may be extradited or expelled from their country.

Article 24

All citizens have the right of access to the administration of the public function within conditions of equality, in accordance with the provisions provided for by the law.

Article 25

No one may be forced to effectuate a job [*travail*], except in the cases specified by the law.

Article 26

The domicile is inviolable, except in the cases provided for by the law.

Article 27

The confidentiality of correspondence and of telecommunications is guaranteed, except in the cases provided for by the law.

The law guarantees the protection of individual computer data [*données informatiques*].

Article 28

The freedom of information, of communication and of the press are guaranteed within the conditions established by the law.

Article 29

The State guarantees to all citizens the right to instruction, to education, to teaching [*enseignement*] and to culture.

Article 30

The State guarantees the rights of women, of children, of youth and of persons living with a disability, to be protected by the public powers against all forms of abandonment, of exploitation and of violence.

Article 31

All citizens enjoy the freedom of movement, except in the restrictive cases provided for by the law.

Section II

Political Rights

Article 32

All citizens have the right to participate in political life, directly or by the intermediary of representatives freely elected.

Article 33

All citizens have the right of access, within conditions of equality and of freedom, to the public functions and to the elective mandates, within the conditions established by the law.

Article 34

The Union of the Comoros recognizes and guarantees to the youth and to women the right of access to the political instances of local and national representation.

Article 35

The political Parties and groups concur in the exercise of suffrage, as well as in the civic and political instruction [*formation*] of the people. They form and exercise their activities freely in accordance with the law.

They must respect the national unity, sovereignty and the inviolability [*intangibilité*] of the frontiers, such as they are internationally recognized, as well as the principles of democracy.

The constitution of insular political parties, regional or local or having a paramilitary character or [having] recourse to subversive methods, is prohibited.

The law determines the juridical status of the political parties and regulates the benefits that may be granted to them by the State.

Article 36

The political opposition is recognized in the Union of the Comoros.

It exercises its activities freely, within the limits imposed by the law.

The law determines the status of the political opposition.

Section III

Economic and Social Rights

Article 37

Work is a right recognized to all citizens; the State is required to create the conditions necessary for its effective exercise.

Article 38

All citizens have the right to the security of the employment and to receive a remuneration proportional to the quantity and to the quality of the work provided.

Men and women receive an identical remuneration for equal work.

Article 39

Within the conditions provided for by the law, the freedom to create syndical associations or professional associations is recognized to all workers in view to defend their collective or individual interests and rights.

Article 40

No one is obligated to belong to a union, or to a professional association or to continue in one, or to pay contributions [*cotisations*] to a union or to a professional association of which they are not a part.

Article 41

The right to strike is recognized and it is exercised within the framework of the law which regulates it.

Article 42

All citizens have the right to health.

It is notably incumbent on the State:

- to assure a national health service, general and hierarchical;
- to encourage and to support the participation of the community in the different levels of health services as well as public and private initiatives in matters of health.

Article 43

All citizens have right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, as well as the duty to protect it and to conserve it.

The State and the collectivities must adopt policies of defense and of protection of the environment with the collaboration of the associations of defense of the environment, and see to the rational utilization of all the natural resources.

Article 44

The State determines a policy in matters of teaching having as its objective the progressive elimination of illiteracy, permanent training [*formation*], creativity, the insertion of schools in the community and civic instruction of the students.

**CHAPTER III
OF THE DUTIES**

Article 45

Every individual has duties towards the family, the society and the State as well as towards other institutions recognized by the law.

Article 46

Every individual has the duty to respect the rights and freedoms of others, [and] the moral and the common interest.

Article 47

Every individual has the duty to respect and to consider their fellow men [*semblables*] without discrimination of any kind, and to maintain with them relations of [a] nature to promote, to safeguard and to reinforce reciprocal respect and tolerance.

Article 48

Every individual has the duty to participate in the defense of their country.

**CHAPTER IV
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION**

Article 49

The totality of the economic resources and wealth of the country is put at the service of the general interest.

Article 50

The State supports the national economic actors in their relations with the rest of the world, in particular the economic actors and activities thereby [*pouvant*] contributing in a positive manner to the insertion of the Comoros in the global economic system.

Article 51

The State guarantees free enterprise as well as the security of the capital and investments.

The State stimulates, supports and protects foreign investment that contributes to the economic and social development of the country, within the conditions provided for by the law.

TITLE III
OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNION
CHAPTER I
OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER

Article 52

The presidency of the Union rotates [*est tournante*] between the Islands.

Each Island, by the elected candidate, assures the presidency of the Union for a mandate of five (5) years renewable one time.

In no case, may an Island exercise more than two (2) consecutive mandates.

The President of the Union is elected by universal direct majority suffrage in two rounds.

Article 53

The Comorian citizen of origin, from the Island where the rotation falls, having the status of elector, aged at least thirty-five (35) years [on] the day of the presentation of their candidature and having effectively resided in a permanent manner in the national territory in the course of the twelve months preceding the election, may be [a] candidate to the presidency of the Union.

For the purposes of this Article, the Comorian [person] who has ancestors [*ascendants*], from the maternal or the paternal line [who] were born in this Island[,] is from the Island.

Any Comorian who, although not from the Island, has however lived in an effective manner on the Island where the rotation falls during at least the ten years preceding the election[,] may equally be [a] candidate.

The Comorian [person] who chooses to be [a] candidate to the presidential election, [or the election] of governor, in one Island, may not be [a candidate] in another Island. This choice is definitive.

The modalities of the election mentioned in the preceding paragraph are determined by an organic law.

Article 54

The President of the Union is the symbol of the National Unity:

- He is the guarantor of the inviolability of the frontiers such as they are internationally recognized as well as of the sovereignty of the Country.
- He is the arbiter and the moderator of the regular functioning of its institutions.
- He assures the highest representation of the Union in international relations.
- He is the guarantor of respect for the international treaties and agreements. The President of the Union determines and conducts foreign policy.
- He appoints and accredits the ambassadors and the envoys extraordinary to foreign powers.
- The foreign ambassadors and envoys extraordinary are accredited to him.
- He negotiates and ratifies the treaties.

The President of the Union is the Head of Government.

In this capacity [*titre*], he determines and conducts the policy of the Union:

- He has the public administration at his disposal.

- He exercises the regulatory power.
- He appoints to the civil and military offices [*emplois*].
- The President of the Union may delegate certain of his powers to the members of the Government.
- The President of the Union is the Head of the Armies. He is responsible for the external defense.
- The President of the Union has the right of pardon.

Article 55

When the constitutional institutions, the independence of the Nation, the integrity of its territory or the execution of its international engagements are menaced in a grave and immediate manner, and [when] the regular functioning of the constitutional institutions is interrupted, the President of the Union, after official consultation of the Council of Ministers, of the President of the Assembly of the Union and of the Supreme Court[,] takes the exceptional measures required by the circumstances.

These measures must be inspired by the will to assure to the constitutional institutions, with the least delay, the means to accomplish their mission.

Article 56

The President of the Union can, on [being] enabled by the Assembly of the Union, legislate by ordinance [*ordonnance*] on matters relative to its competence. These ordinances are deposited with the Bureau of the Assembly at the next session following the termination of the time period established by the enabling law.

Article 57

Before entering into [his] functions the President of the Union takes [an] oath, his hand on the Koran, before the Supreme Court, attended by the Mufti of the Republic or in his absence, the Grand Qadi, according to the following formulation:

“I swear before Allah, the Merciful and the most Compassionate to loyally and honestly fulfill the duties of my charge, to only act in the general interest and within respect for the Constitution.”

Article 58

In case of vacancy or of definitive impediment of the President, intervening within the nine hundred days following the date of investiture of his mandate and declared by the Supreme Court referred to [the matter] by the Government, it proceeds to the election of a new President, within a time period of sixty days.

The interim is assured by the Prime Minister, [from] within the act of appointment of the Ministers and other members of the Government. During this period, he may not change the Government.

If the vacancy or the definitive impediment intervenes beyond nine hundred days, the Governor of the island assuring the presidency of the Union, finishes the mandate.

In this case, the function of [the] Governor is assured by the Secretary General of the Governorship concerned.

Article 59

The functions of President of the Union are incompatible with the exercise of any other elective mandate, of any other political function, of any public office

[*emplois*], of any public or private professional activity or of any function within a directive organ of a political party or group.

Article 60

The President of the Union, appoints the Ministers and the other members of the Government of which the number may not exceed fifteen.

Article 61

The Government of the Union is composed in a manner to assure the just and equitable representation of the Islands and a just and equitable division between men and women.

Article 62

The functions of Minister are incompatible with the exercise of any national elective mandate, of any function of professional representation and of any public office or of any professional activity.

Article 63

The members of the Government respond for criminal infractions committed within the exercise and outside of the exercise of their functions, before the jurisdictions of common law.

Article 64

The President of the Union promulgates the laws of the Union within the thirty days which follow the transmission to the Government of the law definitively adopted.

He can, before the expiration of this time period, demand of the Assembly of the Union, which decides with [an] absolute majority, a new deliberation of the law or of certain of its articles. This new deliberation cannot be refused.

Article 65

The President of the Union presents one time per year before the Assembly of the Union, a discourse on the state of the Union.

**CHAPTER II
OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER**

Article 66

The Assembly of the Union is composed of members elected in the national electoral circumscriptions and of those, representing the Comorians established outside the Comoros.

Article 67

A law establishes the conditions and the modalities of election of each of the categories of the members of the Assembly of the Union, mentioned in the Article above as well as their number.

It establishes equally the number of electoral circumscriptions, the regime of the ineligibilities and of the incompatibilities of the said [*desdits*] members.

It determines in addition the conditions in which the persons are elected [who are] called to assure[,] in case of vacancy of [a] seat, their replacement until [the] general or partial renewal of the Assembly of the Union.

Article 68

The members of the Assembly of the Union are Deputies. They represent the Nation.

Article 69

Any Deputy who, in the course of a mandate, resigns from their party or changes [their] political formation automatically loses their seat in the Assembly of the Union. They are replaced by their substitute who finishes the mandate.

Article 70

The mandate of Deputy commences at the date of the opening of the first session and ends at the term of the fifth year.

Article 71

The election of the Deputies takes place within the sixty days preceding the expiration of the powers of the Assembly of the Union.

Article 72

The Assembly of the Union is the legislative organ of the Union. It votes the laws, including the laws of regulation, adopts the budget and controls the action of the Government.

Article 73

The Assembly of the Union is completely renewed.

Article 74

The Assembly of the Union adopts, with the majority of two-thirds of its members, its internal regulations. Before the entry into application of these, the Supreme Court decides on their conformity with the Constitution.

Article 75

The President of the Assembly of the Union is elected for the duration of the legislature.

However, his mandate may be challenged [*mise en cause*] by a motion of defiance according to the following procedure:

- The demand is formulated and signed by at least half of the Deputies composing the Assembly;
- The vote may only take place forty-eight hours after its deposit;
- Only the votes favorable to the motion are counted;
- The motion is adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the members composing the Assembly;
- The Assembly may only vote one sole motion per year;
- No motion may be deposited in the course of an extraordinary session;

The interim is assured by the First Vice President. He organizes the election of the new President within the fifteen days following the adoption of the motion.

Article 76

An organic law determines the conditions and the modalities of the election of the Deputies of the Assembly of the Union and of its President, the regimes of the ineligibilities and of the incompatibilities, as well as their indemnities.

Article 77

No member of the Assembly of the Union may be prosecuted, investigated, arrested, detained or judged on the basis [*occasion*] of the opinions or votes emitted by him in the exercise of his functions.

Article 78

No member of the Assembly of the Union may, during the time of the sessions, be prosecuted or arrested in [a] criminal or correctional matter without the authorization of the Assembly, except in the case of flagrante delicto.

No member of the Assembly of the Union may, out of session, be arrested without the authorization of the Bureau of the Assembly, except in case of flagrante delicto, of authorized prosecutions or of definitive condemnation.

Article 79

The right to vote of the members of the Assembly of the Union is personal. The law may exceptionally authorize the delegation of the vote to another Deputy. In this case, no one may receive [the] delegation of more than one mandate.

Article 80

The Assembly of the Union meets of plain right in two ordinary sessions per year, of which the total duration may not exceed six months. The calendar of the sessions is established according to the modalities determined by the internal regulations of the Assembly of the Union.

Article 81

The Assembly of the Union meets in extraordinary session, at the demand of the President of the Union or of the absolute majority of the Deputies, on a specific [*déterminé*] agenda.

The extraordinary session may not exceed fifteen days counting from the date of its meeting.

Article 82

The sittings of the Assembly of the Union are in principle public, save the cases provided for by the internal regulations of the Assembly.

Article 83

The initiative of law belongs concurrently to President of the Union and to the Deputies.

The Deputies and the Government have the right of amendment.

The bills of law are deliberated in the Council of Ministers and deposited with the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union.

Article 84

The proposals of law of the members of the Assembly of the Union, are only receivable if they are communicated to the Government before their inscription on the agenda. It is held to return them, with or without observations, within a time period which may not exceed fifteen days.

If it appears in the course of the legislative procedure, that a proposal of law or an amendment, is not of the domain of the law or is contrary to a delegation agreed to by virtue of Article 56, above, the Government may oppose the receivability;

In case of disagreement between the Government and the Assembly of the Union, the Supreme Court, at the demand of the one or the other, decides within a time period of eight (8) days.

Article 85

The proposals of law and amendments of the members of the Assembly of the Union are not receivable when their adoption should have as a consequence, either

a diminution of the public resources, or the creation or aggravation of a public expense [*charge*].

Article 86

The bills and proposals of law are, at the demand of the Government or of the Assembly of the Union, sent [*envoyés*] for examination to commissions created by the internal regulations of the Assembly of the Union or specially established to this effect.

Article 87

The laws to which the Constitution confers the character of organic laws are voted and modified within the following conditions.

- The bill or the proposal of organic law is only submitted to the deliberation and to the vote of the Assembly of the Union at the expiration of a time of fifteen days after its deposit.
- The organic laws are adopted with the majority of two-thirds of the members composing the Assembly of the Union.
- They are promulgated after [the] declaration of the Supreme Court of their conformity to the Constitution.

Article 88

The Assembly of the Union votes the laws of finance with a majority of two-thirds.

If it has not decided within a time period of sixty days after the opening of the second ordinary session, the provisions of the bill may be brought into force by ordinance.

CHAPTER III OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE POWER AND THE EXECUTIVE POWER

Article 89

Other than the matters that are assigned to it by the other articles of the Constitution, the law establishes the rules concerning:

- the civic rights and the fundamental guarantees granted to citizens for the exercise of the public freedoms;
- the freedom, the pluralism and the independence of the media;
- the constraints [*sujétions*] imposed on citizens on their person and on their assets;
- the regime of the associations and of the political parties as well as the status of the opposition;
- nationality, the state and capacity of persons, the law of the family, inheritance and gifts;
- the determination of the crimes and misdemeanors as well as the penalties applicable to them;
- the criminal procedure;
- amnesty;
- the creation of new orders of jurisdiction;
- the right to work, the syndical right, the right to security and of social security [*protection sociale*];

- the basis, the rate and the modalities of collection of taxes of any nature;
- the regime of issuing of the currency.

Article 90

The law establishes equally the rules concerning:

- the administration of the customs services;
- the mode of management of the domain of the State and of registry [*cadastre*];
- the mode of management of the companies with public capital;
- the regime of ownership, of real rights and of civil and commercial obligations;
- the electoral regime of the Assembly of the Union and of the Local Assemblies;
- the status of the functionaries and of the military [personnel] as well as the guarantees that are accorded to them;
- the nationalization of enterprises and the transfer of ownership of enterprises of the public sector to the private sector;
- the expropriations for reason [*cause*] of public utility.

Article 91

The law determines the fundamental principles:

- of the general organization of the national defense and security;
- of the general organization of the administrative, social and financial investigative organs [*inspections*];
- of the free administration of the Communes, of their competences and of their resources;
- of education and of national public diplomas;
- of information and of the New Technologies of Communication and of Information.

Article 92

The matters other than those of the domain of the law have a regulatory character.

The texts of legislative form intervening in these matters before or after this Constitution, may be modified or abrogated by decree of the President of the Union, taking prior opinion of the Supreme Court, referred [to the matter] by the Government

Article 93

The Assembly of the Union, may adopt resolutions within the conditions established by the law.

The proposals of resolutions that include injunctions regarding the Government are irreceivable and may not be inscribed in the agenda.

CHAPTER IV OF THE JUDICIAL POWER

Article 94

The judicial power is independent, of the legislative power and of the executive power. It is exercised by the the Supreme Court and the other courts and tribunals.

The judges are only subject in the exercise of their functions, to the authority of the law.

The presiding magistrates [*magistrats du siège*] are not removable, save for the cases of necessity of service.

Article 95

The President of the Union is the guarantor of the independence of Justice.

He is assisted by the Superior Council of the Magistrature.

An organic law concerns [*porte*] the status of the magistrates of the Superior Council of the Magistrature.

The judicial organization is determined by the law.

Article 96

The Supreme Court is the highest jurisdiction of the Union in judicial, administrative, [and] constitutional matters and [matters] of accounts.

It judges the President of the Union in case of high treason.

The decisions of the Supreme Court are not susceptible to any recourse and impose themselves on the Executive Power, on the Legislative Power as well as [on] all the jurisdictions of the national territory.

The modalities of application of this Article are established by an organic law.

CHAPTER V OF RELIGION

Article 97

Islam is religion of [the] State.

The State draws on this religion, the Sunni principles and rules of obedience and the Chafi'i rites that govern the belief [*culte*] and social life.

Article 98

The Mufti of the republic is the highest religious authority of the State. He is appointed by decree of the President of the Union.

The modalities of application of this Article are established by the law.

TITLE IV OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE ISLANDS

Article 99

The Islands are endowed with juridical personality.

They enjoy free administration and autonomy of management [*gestion*].

Each is administrated by a Governor and a Consultative Council.

CHAPTER I OF THE GOVERNORS

Article 100

The Governor is elected by the electors of the Island by direct uninominal suffrage in two rounds, for a mandate of five years renewable one time.

In case of vacancy or of definitive impediment of the Governor of [an] Island, intervening within the nine hundred days following the date of investiture of his mandate and declared by the Supreme Court referred to [the matter] by his Cabinet, it proceeds to the election of a new Governor, within a time period of sixty days. The interim is assured by the Secretary General of the Governorship.

If the vacancy or definitive impediment intervenes beyond nine hundred days, the Secretary General of the Governorship finishes the mandate.

Article 101

In the exercise of his competences, the Governor issues orders [*prend des arrêtés*].

He is assisted in the exercise of his functions by a Cabinet composed of seven members including one Director of [the] Cabinet and a Secretary General responsible for coordinating the whole of the insular public services.

In concert [*concertation*] with the Union and taking into account the needs and resources available, the Island recruits through the Public Function [*Fonction Publique (FOP)*], the administrative personnel necessary for the organization and for the functioning of the insular services.

Article 102

The following matters arise within [*relève*] the exclusive competence of the islands:

- the plan of economic and social development of the island;
- the development [*aménagement*] of the territory of the island;
- the acquisition of assets for the needs of the island;
- the promotion of tourism, of the environment and of the historic patrimony of the island;
- non-commercial [*artisanal*] fishing;
- agriculture and animal husbandry, with the exclusion of policies [*stratégies*] and research;
- road maintenance;
- fairs and markets.

Article 103

In concert with the Union, the island acts in the matters cited below:

- the administration of the Local Collectivities;
- the management of pre-school, primary and secondary teaching establishments and personnel;
- basic local professional training;
- allocations of grants for studies;
- the construction, equipping and the maintenance as well as the management of the establishments and personnel of basic health.

Article 104

Within respect for the Constitution and within the limits of their respective competences, the Union and the autonomous Islands or the autonomous Islands among themselves may conclude conventions of a social, economic or financial character.

Within the limit of their respective competences and within respect for the Constitution of the Union of the Comoros and for the international commitments of the Union, the autonomous Island may establish [*nouer*] and maintain relations of cooperation with the local collectivities or non-governmental foreign organs [*organismes*].

The conventions mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article, may not be concluded without the prior agreement of the State.

Article 105

Taking into account national solidarity and the balanced socio-economic development of the Islands, the resources of these include the endowment [*dotation*] paid by the State and the product of the rights, taxes [*impôts*], and local taxes [*taxes locales*] of which the amounts and rates [*taux*] are established by the law of finance.

Article 106

The budget of the Island must be balanced and approved by the State.

CHAPTER II OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Article 107

The Consultative Council is composed of representatives of the Communal Councils designated from within on the basis of one representative by Communal Council.

The modalities of designation of the representative of the Communal Council are determined by the internal regulations of the concerned Council.

The Consultative Council adopts its internal regulations which define notably the modalities of its functioning.

If the circumstances so require, the Governor refers [the matter to] the Consultative Council to give its opinion on issues that interest the Island.

Article 108

The functions of the members of the Consultative Council are gratuitous. Nevertheless, they receive an indemnity for [their] presence, of which the amount is established by order of the Governor of the Island.

TITLE V OF THE COMMUNES

Article 109

The Commune, like any other territorial collectivity[,] is created by the law.

Article 110

Within the conditions provided for by the law, the Communes administer themselves freely through elected councils and make decisions [concerning] the whole of their competences.

They benefit from resources of which they may dispose freely within the conditions established by the law.

Article 111

The representative of the State has the responsibility for the national interests in the Island and assures the control of [the] legality of the acts of the Commune and for the respect for the laws and regulations.

Article 112

The modalities of designation of the communal organs, of organization and of functioning of the Communes are determined by the law.

TITLE VI
OF THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 113

The initiative of the revision of the Constitution belongs concurrently to the President of the Union and to at least one-third of the members of the Assembly of the Union.

Article 114

To be adopted, the bill or proposal of revision must be approved by three-quarters of the total number of the members of the Assembly of the Union or by referendum.

Article 115

No procedure of revision may be initiated or pursued when it infringes the unity of the territory and the inviolability of the internationally recognized frontiers.

TITLE VII
MISCELLANEOUS AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 116

The international treaties and agreements, the laws, the ordinances and the regulations currently in force when they are not contrary to this Constitution, remain applicable as long as they are not expressly modified or abrogated.

Article 117

This Constitution, adopted by way of referendum abrogates and replaces the provisions of the Constitution of 23 December 2001, revised, which are contrary to it. It enters into force on the date of the proclamation of the official results.

During and until the establishment of the new institutions provided for by this Constitution, the President of the Union and the Governors of the Islands in exercise [of office], continue their functions. The President appoints the members of the Government.

In the case of vacancy or definitive impediment of the President or of the Governor in the course of the transitory period, [the following] is applied[:] concerning the President of the Union, the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 58 of this Constitution, and concerning the Governor, [those] of paragraph 3 of Article 100.

Article 118

If the President and the Governors in [their] functions declare themselves candidates, they must from the publication of the definitive list of candidates, take leave [*prendre congé*] of their functions.

To this effect, they must present before the Supreme Court, a declaration attesting this leave within the seventy-two hours from the publication of the definitive list of candidates.

During this leave, the replacement of the President of the Union is assured by a Minister that he appoints. That of the Governor of the Island is assured by the Secretary General of the Government.

Article 119

The elections of the new, President of the Union and Governors of the Islands will take place on the same date, no latter than within the twelve months, following the date of the entrance into force of this Constitution.

Article 120

The powers of the Assembly of the Union end on the date of expiration of the mandate of the Deputies currently in [their] functions.

Article 121

With regard to the order in which the rotating Presidency takes place, the first round falls to the Island of Ngazidja.

Article 122

The Institutions of Maoré will be established as soon as the occupation of that Island ends.
