

# The Law on the Succession of the Sôgmô of May 2018:

## Preamble

*In the truth and teachings of the Three Jewels and the benedictions of All the Gods!*

We Sandum People, invoking ancient and perpetual laws of peoples and constitutions of power, promulgate this law on succession in the State of Sandus, lest the power of the State of Sandus not continue, lest the welfare of the Sandum People not increase, and lest the dignity of the Sandum Republic not flourish. We provide in this law for the democracy of the State of Sandus, the centralism of our philosophical lineage, and the merit befitting our station and our position in the world. Drawing upon the history of countless peoples, in full faith and turgid hope for the future, we hereby ordain this process by which one sôgmô will follow another *in perpetuum*.

## Section 1 – Definitions:

1. **Sôgmô**: the highest constitutional and political office in the State of Sandus used to refer to both the office and the officeholder; “Office of the Sôgmô” is the official title referring to the constitutional office in an abstract sense. Usage: capitalised to refer to the reigning officeholder, minisculed to refer to the general constitutional office in this bill.
2. **Heir**: an elected individual who may receive the Office of the Sôgmô upon the death or disability of the reigning officeholder.
3. **Heir Elected**: the lawful and legitimate recipient who will inherit the Office of the Sôgmô upon the death or disability of the reigning officeholder; also refers to the abstract office.
4. **Heir sine officio**: a former officeholder of the office of the Heir Elected who would have inherited Office of the Sôgmô if the reigning officeholder had died or been disabled.
5. **Legatee**: an elected or selected individual who may receive a managerial position which is executed by the reigning Sôgmô upon their death or disability and which the Heir Elected is unwilling to assume upon accession.
6. **Interrex**: an office (1) either held by one of the three highest constitutional offices in the Central Peoples’ Government (Sôgmô, Party Secretary, Facilitator) or (2) appointed (a) by the Sôgmô or (b) by the Party Secretary and Facilitator.
7. **Quinque Interreges** or simply the **Interreges**: refers to the constitutional caucus which nominates and oversees the process of election of the Heir Elected.
8. **Caucus of the Quinque Interreges** is the official title of the body.
9. **Quinquennial**: a period lasting for the duration of five years (as with the term of the Heir Elect) or an event which takes place once every five years (as with the procedure to elect an Heir).
10. **Prorogation**: a legal process by which an office is extended or prolonged, or “prorogued,” beyond the temporal limits established by law. An Heir Elected can be prorogued indefinitely by the Sôgmô for another period of five years.

## Section 2 – Current Procedure for Succession:

**Article 1.** The current procedure for succession is regulated by the Sôgmô's personal last will and testament, whose most recent version is from 11 July 2016.

**Article 2.** The current board consists of several micronationalists as *interreges*, three are named explicitly: James Puchowski, Jacob Tierney, Adam von Friedeck

**Article 3. Process:** The board reaches a consensus on the nomination of a candidate, proposes the candidate to the Council, and the candidate is elected by a two-thirds majority in the Council (all Sandum citizens have suffrage over the vote).

**Article 4. Qualifications & Criteria for candidates:** The *interreges* implicitly decide the criteria of their selection. The Sôgmô's will only calls for "suitable" candidates, but also provides a few provisions, such as that the candidate must not have any other foreign citizenship or must give it up upon accession as the new sôgmô.

**Article 5.** The current will raises the following constitutional concerns upon accession for the sôgmô-elect:

- a. "The sôgmô-elect must adhere to the Sandum philosophy, must make a statement of faith in the basis of the Sandum philosophy, and must strive to continue to develop the philosophy based on its established foundations; the sôgmô-elect must swear or affirm that það will govern with a view recognising the suffering of this world and the role of a benevolent government, such as þess, to overcome this suffering for the Sandum people and nation and to work within the socialist principles of the State of Sandus and of the Citizens' Party."
- b. "The sôgmô-elect must decide whether or not to take up the office of Sacer Flamen of the Collegium Sacerdotium. If the sôgmô-elect will take up the office, then það must perform the Tibetan Buddhist and Roman polytheist rites associated with the office; if not, then the triumviri interreges must find a new Sacer Flamen who is a cultor religionis Romanae and a Tibetan Buddhist and who is willing to become a civis citizen of the State of Sandus."
- c. "The sôgmô-elect must become a member of the Citizens' Party of Sandus and must be a supporter of socialism yet also with a view toward moderation."
- d. "The sôgmô-elect will swear the oath of citizenship and of the office of sôgmô in a simple, candid coronation ceremony, decked in white and assuming the robes of office. The preparations for the ceremony will be þinna [theirs]."
- e. "The sôgmô-elect will receive the necessary information to control the administrative functions of the State of Sandus, its websites and public media, et cetera."

**Article 6.** The Sôgmô's current will was witnessed by the aforementioned *interreges*, Bee Healy, Hatsu Ryuho (Robert Piemme), and Frederic Bayer.

## Section 3 – Proposed Procedure for Succession:

### a. Positions and Organs created under this Law:

**Article 7. Heir Elected:** the office and position of the designated and duly elected heir to the Office of the Sôgmô for a period of five years. During the quinquennial process:

- a. nominees for the position of Heir elected must be willing to take up Sandum citizenship alone upon accession (does not need to be a citizen at the time of their candidacy)
- b. nominees for the position of Heir elected must be willing to fulfill the criteria in Section 1, Article 5, or demonstrate a compelling philosophical reason as to why the nominee cannot.
- c. The Heir's position can be prorogued/extended for another period of 5 years indefinitely by the Sôgmô
- d. Heir Elected & Heir *sine officio*: former heirs who have decided to step down from the position will receive the title Heir *sine officio*. Disgraced heirs receive no such title.

**Article 8. Legatee:** The title of an individual who inherits a legacy: in the case of this law, the management of a cooperative.

- a. In the case that the reigning Sôgmô is the manager of a cooperative, such as the Sacer Flamen of the Collegium Sacerdotum, and the designated heir is unwilling to take up the management of such cooperative, the *interreges* must suggest a legatee following the quinquennial election process, whereby the cooperative will become managed by an elected official.
- b. The Sôgmô selects a legatee to be approved and ratified by a simple poll of workers of the cooperative and arranges for a transfer of managerial power in advance of *pass* demise.

**Article 9. Caucus of the *Quinque Interreges*:** A caucus of five members composed of the heads of the three branches of government, an *interrex* appointed by the Sôgmô, and another *interrex* appointed by both the Party Secretary and the Facilitator of the Council.

- a. If the Sôgmô is incapacitated with an heir, the Caucus vests emergency power in the heir.
- b. If the Sôgmô is incapacitated without an heir, the Caucus exercises emergency power.

## b. Quinquennial Process for the Election of an Heir:

**Article 10.** On every year from the founding of Sandus divisible by five, that is, every year ending with four or nine (2024, 2029, etc.), this procedure is followed to determine the heir.

**Article 11.** Beginning in December before the quinquennial process begins (i.e., in 2018, 2023, etc.), the Caucus of the *Quinque Interreges* is selected and sits.

**Article 12.** During the Winter, or January to March, the Caucus of *Quinque Interreges* meet to determine a long list of candidates created by the Sôgmô in consultation with the other *interreges* and derived from criteria determined by the Caucus and in recognition of the concerns found in Section 1, Article 5.

**Article 13.** During the Spring and Summer, from March to September, the Caucus of the *Quinque Interreges*:

- a. drafts a short-list, interviews candidates, debates the character of candidates, debates candidates' qualifications as the caucus sees fit.
- b. publishes a report for public oversight and transparency.
- c. convenes public meeting, if requested by a plurality of Sandum citizens.

**Article 14.** During the early Autumn, in September and October, the Caucus of the *Quinque Interreges* selects a shortlist of three to five nominees, ensures that the nominees are willing to meet the criteria in Section 1, Article 5 (or that they will demonstrate appropriate and apt

philosophical reasons for why the nominee cannot in accordance with Section 2a, Article 7.b), and publicly announces the nominees.

**Article 15.** In November, the Party Congress will select two final nominees who will be the candidates in the Winter Solstice elections.

**Article 16.** In December, during the annual Winter Solstice Elections, the nominees are elected by a ballot of all Sandum citizens according to the voting rules of the Council, i.e., regardless of the status of their citizenship and by rules and restrictions differing from those of the Sôgmô's election on the Winter Solstice.

### c. Supplementary Process for Election of Legatees:

#### **Article 17. Cooperatives:**

- a. Economic cooperatives decide a new manager through an election of the workers' democracy.
- b. Non-economic cooperatives managed by því (e.g., Collegium Sacerdotum) can either determine their own election process through by-laws or the *Quinque Interreges* can elect a new manager. This managerial position can be reclaimed by a future sôgmô upon accession.

**Article 18. Authorities/Institutions:** These bodies can determine own election process, elect through coöption, or the *Quinque Interreges* can elect a new manager (in the case of defunct or extinct bodies)

#### **Article 19. Orders:**

- a. The position of Sovereign of the Most Honourable Order of the Throne of Sandus must be inherited by a sôgmô upon accession.
- b. The position of sovereign or leader of other, non-State orders of honour can be bestowed by the reigning Sôgmô or elected by members.

### d. Office of the Heir Elected:

**Article 20. Powers:** No political or constitutional powers, except those granted by the Sôgmô in þess old age or at expedient times, are conferred by this bill.

**Article 21. Ceremonial Duties:** The Heir Elected is a representative of the reigning Sôgmô, who serves state and honorary functions and who discharges the offices and powers delegated to them by the reigning Sôgmô.

**Article 22. Nobility:** An uninheritable, elective, and substantively entitled barony is to be established for the Heir Elected, similar to substantive titles bestowed upon other heir apparents (such as the Duchy of Lancaster, Principality of Wales, or the Dauphiny of Viennois).

- a. Heirs *sine officio* is a title used to refer to former Heirs Elected.
- b. Heirs automatically are eligible to a knighthood.
- c. Heirs who have been disgraced, however, are not entitled to the title.

## Section 4 – Extraordinary & Interim Procedure for Succession:

**Article 23. Interim Procedure:** Current succession procedure (Section 1) will remain until December 2018.

**Article 24. Extraordinary Procedures for Succession:**

- a. In the case of a vacancy, whether through death or resignation, the Sôgmô may appoint an heir with the approval of the Party Secretary and the Facilitator of the Council; the appointment must be ratified at the earliest convenience by the next Winter Solstice election.
- b. In the case of the impeachment of a sôgmô without an heir, whether by the Council or by a referendum during the Winter Solstice election, the Party Secretary will nominate a candidate in consensus with the Facilitator who will be elected by the Council.
- c. In the case of the impeachment or removal of the Heir Elected by the Sôgmô for cause or for violation of good faith, the Sôgmô may appoint an heir with the approval of the Party Secretary and the Facilitator of the Council; the appointment must be ratified at the earliest convenience by the next Winter Solstice election.

**Section 5 – Ratification:**

**Article 25.** This law comes into effect on 21 December 2018, during which time the process for succession found in Section 2b will become effective and will take place.