



Basic Law of the
Kingdom of Atovia

Grundgesetz für das
Königreich Atovien

Preamble

We, the people of the Kingdom of Atovia,

seeking to promote the common good,

establish human rights and freedoms, civil peace and accord,

proceeding from universally acknowledged principles of equality and self-determination of peoples,

striving to ensure the well-being and prosperity of Atovia,

recognizing ourselves to be a part of the world community,

do hereby adopt this Basic Law of the Kingdom of Atovia.

I. General Provisions

Article 1: Name

(1) The name of the state is the Kingdom of Atovia. Its shortened form is Atovia.

Article 2: Constitutional principles

(1) The Kingdom of Atovia is a democratic and federal constitutional monarchy.

(2) All government authority is derived from the people. It shall be exercised by the people through elections, referenda, and through specific legislative, executive, and judicial bodies.

(3) The legislature shall be bound by the constitutional order, the executive, and the judiciary by law and justice.

Article 3: Right of resistance

(1) All Atovians shall have the right to resist any person seeking to abolish this constitutional order if no other remedy is available.

Article 4: Secular state

(1) Atovia shall be a secular state. The state shall neither favor nor disfavor any religious group.

Article 5: Provinces

(1) The Kingdom of Atovia is a federal state composed of the following provinces, listed in order of accession: Theolonia, Zederschloß.¹

(2) The provinces are sovereign except to the extent that their sovereignty is limited by the Basic Law. They exercise all rights that are not vested in the federal government.

¹ Amended pursuant to the Transterra-Atovia Merge Treaty Ratification Act (1PB7) on 27 June 2019, the Verraland-Sylvana Act (1PB8) on 27 June 2019, Royal Edict 018 (RE-018) on 24 January 2021, and Royal Edict No. 1-22 (RE-1-22) on 25 January 2023.

Article 6: Territory and land claims

- (1) The right to make territorial claims rests with the federal government.
- (2) The process of claiming territory, settling boundary disputes, and the limits of territorial waters shall be regulated by the federal government.

Article 7: National symbols

- (1) The flag of Atovia shall be defined by federal law.²
- (2) The coat of arms of Atovia shall be defined by federal law.
- (3) Other national symbols may be adopted by parliament.
- (4) The demonym of Atovia is Atovian.

Article 8: National languages

- (1) The national languages are English and German.

II. Basic Rights, Citizenship, and Social Objectives

Chapter 1: Basic Rights

Article 9: Human dignity

- (1) Human dignity shall be inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all state authority.
- (2) The Atovian people therefore acknowledge inviolable and inalienable human rights as the basis of every community, of peace and justice in the world.
- (3) The following basic rights shall bind the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary as directly applicable law.

Article 10: Personal freedoms

- (1) Every person shall have the right to free development of their personality as long as they do not violate the rights of others or offend against the constitutional order or the moral law.
- (2) Every person shall have the right to life and to physical and mental integrity. Freedom of the person shall be inviolable.
- (3) Torture and any other form of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment are prohibited.

Article 11: Freedom of movement

- (1) All Atovians shall have the right to move freely throughout the territory.
- (2) This right may be restricted only by or pursuant to a law, and only in cases in which the absence of adequate means of support would result in a particular burden for the community, or in which such restriction is necessary to avert an imminent danger to the existence or the free democratic basic order of the federal government or of a province, to combat the danger of an epidemic, to respond to a grave accident or natural disaster, to protect young persons from serious neglect, or to prevent crime.

² Amended by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

Article 12: Equality before the law

- (1) All persons shall be equal before the law.
- (2) All people shall have equal rights. The state shall ensure their equality, both in law and in practice. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for all people and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that currently exist. All people have the right to equal pay for work of equal value.
- (3) No person shall be favored or disfavored because of sex, parentage, race, gender, age, language, homeland and origin, faith, social position, way of life, religious, ideological, or political convictions, or because of a physical, mental, or psychological disability.

Article 13: Protection against arbitrary conduct and principle of good faith

- (1) Every person has the right to be treated by state authorities in good faith and in a non-arbitrary manner.

Article 14: Protection of children and young people

- (1) Children and young people shall have the right to the special protection of their integrity and to the encouragement of their development.
- (2) Children may personally exercise their rights to the extent that their power of judgment allows.

Article 15: Right to assistance when in need

- (1) Persons in need and unable to provide for themselves have the right to assistance and care, and to the financial means required for a decent standard of living.

Article 16: Right to privacy

- (1) Every person has the right to privacy in their private and family life and in their home.
- (2) The privacy of correspondence, posts, and telecommunications shall be inviolable.
- (3) Every person has the right to be protected against the misuse of their personal data.

Article 17: Right to marry and to have a family

- (1) The right to marry and to have a family is guaranteed.

Article 18: Freedom of religion and conscience

- (1) Freedom of faith and of conscience, and freedom to profess a religious or philosophical creed, shall be inviolable.
- (2) The undisturbed practice of religion shall be guaranteed.
- (3) Every person has the right to freely choose their religion or their philosophical convictions, and to profess them alone or in community with others.
- (4) Every person has the right to join or to belong to a religious community, and to follow religious teachings.
- (5) No person may be forced to join or belong to a religious community, to participate in a religious act, or to follow religious teachings.
- (6) No person shall be compelled against their conscience to render military service involving the use of arms.

Article 19: Freedom of expression, arts, and sciences

- (1) Every person shall have the right freely to express and disseminate their opinions in speech, writing, and pictures, and to inform themselves without hindrance from generally accessible sources.
- (2) Freedom of artistic expression is guaranteed.
- (3) Arts and sciences, research, and teaching shall be free.

Article 20: Freedom of the media

- (1) Freedom of reporting, the press, radio, and television, and of other forms of dissemination of features and information by means of public telecommunications shall be guaranteed.
- (2) There shall be no censorship.
- (3) The protection of sources is guaranteed.

Article 21: Freedom to use any language

- (1) The freedom to use any language is guaranteed.

Article 22: Right to basic education

- (1) The right to an adequate and free basic education is guaranteed.

Article 23: Academic freedom

- (1) Freedom of research and teaching is guaranteed. The freedom of teaching shall not release any person from allegiance to the Basic Law.

Article 24: Freedom of assembly

- (1) All Atovians shall have the right to assemble peacefully without prior notification or permission.
- (2) Every person has the right to organize meetings and to participate or not to participate in meetings.

Article 25: Freedom of association

- (1) All Atovians shall have the right to form corporations and other associations.
- (2) Associations whose aims or activities contravene the criminal laws, or that are directed against the constitutional order or the concept of international understanding, shall be prohibited.
- (3) The right to form associations to safeguard and improve working and economic conditions shall be guaranteed to every individual and to every occupation or profession.
- (4) No person may be compelled to join or to belong to an association.

Article 26: Freedom of domicile

- (1) Atovian citizens have the right to establish their domicile anywhere in the country.
- (2) They shall have the right to leave or enter Atovia.

Article 27: Protection against expulsion, extradition, and deportation

- (1) Atovian citizens may not be expelled from Atovia without legal reason and may only be extradited to a foreign authority with their consent.
- (2) Refugees may not be deported or extradited to a state in which they will be persecuted.
- (3) No person may be deported to a state in which they face the threat of torture or any other form of cruel or inhumane treatment or punishment.

Article 28: Guarantee of ownership

- (1) The right to own property is guaranteed.
- (2) The compulsory purchase of property and any restriction on ownership that is equivalent to compulsory purchase shall be compensated in full.

Article 29: Occupational freedom

- (1) All Atovians shall have the right freely to choose their occupation or profession, their place of work and their place of training. The practice of an occupation or profession may be regulated by or pursuant to a law.
- (2) No person may be required to perform any kind of job except within the framework of a traditional duty of community service that applies generally and equally to all.
- (3) Forced labor may be imposed only on persons deprived of their liberty by the judgment of a court.

Article 30: Right to form professional associations

- (1) Employees, employers, and their organizations have the right to come together to protect their interests, to form associations and to join or not to join such associations.
- (2) Disputes must wherever possible be resolved through negotiation or mediation.
- (3) Strikes and lock outs are permitted if they relate to employment relations and if they do not contravene any requirements to preserve peaceful employment relations or to conduct conciliation proceedings.
- (4) The law may prohibit certain categories of person from taking strike action.

Article 31: General procedural guarantees

- (1) Every person has the right to equal and fair treatment in judicial and administrative proceedings and to have their case decided within a reasonable time.
- (2) Each party to a case has the right to be heard.
- (3) Any person who does not have sufficient means has the right to free legal advice and assistance unless their case appears to have no prospect of success. If it is necessary to safeguard their rights, they also have the right to free legal representation in court.
- (4) In a legal dispute, every person has the right to have their case determined by a judicial authority. The federal government and the provinces may by law preclude the determination by the courts of certain exceptional categories of case.

Article 32: Judicial proceedings

- (1) Any person whose case falls to be judicially decided has the right to have their case heard by a legally constituted, competent, independent, and impartial court. Ad hoc courts are prohibited.
- (2) Unless otherwise provided by law, any person against whom civil proceedings have been raised has the right to have their case decided by a court within the jurisdiction in which they reside.
- (3) Unless the law provides otherwise, all court hearings and the delivery of judgments shall be in public.

Article 33: Deprivation of liberty

- (1) No person may be deprived of their liberty other than in the circumstances and in the manner provided for by the law.
- (2) Any person deprived of their liberty has the right to be notified of the reasons for their detention and of their rights without delay and in a language that they can understand. They must be given the opportunity to exercise their rights, particularly the right to have their next-of-kin informed.
- (3) Any person in pre-trial detention has the right to be brought before a court without delay. The court decides whether the person must remain in detention or be released. Any person in pre-trial detention has the right to have their case decided within a reasonable time.
- (4) Any person who has been deprived of their liberty by a body other than a court has the right to have recourse to a court at any time. The court shall decide as quickly as possible on the legality of their detention.

Article 34: Criminal proceedings

- (1) Every person is presumed innocent until they have been found guilty by a legally enforceable judgment.
- (2) Every accused person has the right to be notified as quickly and comprehensively as possible of the charge brought against them. They must be given the opportunity to assert their rights to a proper defense.
- (3) Every convicted person has the right to have their conviction reviewed by a higher court, except for cases in which the Supreme Court sits at first instance.

Article 35: Right of petition

- (1) Every person has the right, without prejudice, to petition the authorities.
- (2) The authorities must acknowledge receipt of such petitions.

Article 36: Upholding of the basic rights

- (1) The basic rights must be upheld throughout the legal system.
- (2) Whoever acts on behalf of the state is bound by the basic rights and is under a duty to contribute to their implementation.
- (3) The authorities shall ensure that the basic rights, where appropriate, apply to relationships among private persons.

Article 37: Restrictions on the basic rights

- (1) As far as, under this Basic Law, a basic right may be restricted by or pursuant to a law, such law must apply generally and not merely to a particular case. In addition, the law must specify the basic right affected and the Article in which it appears.
- (2) In no case may the essence of a basic right be affected.
- (3) The basic rights shall also apply to domestic artificial persons to the extent that the nature of such rights permits.
- (4) Any restrictions on the basic rights must be proportionate.

Chapter 2: Citizenship and Political Rights

Section 1: General Provisions

Article 38: Citizenship

- (1) No person may be given preferential treatment or suffer prejudice because of their citizenship. The foregoing does not apply to regulations on political rights in provinces and corporations or to participation in the assets thereof unless provincial legislation provides otherwise.

Article 39: Acquisition and deprivation of citizenship

- (1) The federal government shall regulate the acquisition and deprivation of citizenship by birth, marriage, or adoption. It shall also regulate the deprivation of Atovian citizenship on other grounds, together with the reinstatement of citizenship.
- (2) It shall legislate on the minimum requirements for the naturalization of foreign nationals and grant naturalization permits.

Article 40: Political rights

- (1) All Atovian citizens over the age of sixteen, unless they lack legal capacity due to mental illness or mental incapacity, have political rights in national matters. All citizens have the same political rights and duties.
- (2) They may participate in parliamentary and executive elections and launch or sign popular initiatives and requests for referenda in national matters.
- (3) The guarantee of political rights protects the freedom of the citizen to form an opinion and to give genuine expression to their will.

Article 41: Exercise of political rights

- (1) The federal government shall regulate the exercise of political rights in national matters, and the provinces shall regulate their exercise in provincial matters.
- (2) Political rights are exercised in the province in which a citizen resides or is a citizen of, although the state may provide for exceptions.
- (3) No person may exercise their political rights contemporaneously in more than one province.
- (4) A province may provide that a person newly registered as a resident may exercise the right to vote in provincial matters only after a waiting period of a maximum of three months of permanent settlement.

Article 42: Political parties

- (1) Political parties shall participate in the formation of the political will of the people. They may be freely established. Their internal organization must conform to democratic principles. They must publicly account for their assets and for the sources and use of their funds.
- (2) Parties that, by reason of their aims or the behavior of their adherents, seek to undermine or abolish the free democratic basic order or to endanger the existence of the Kingdom of Atovia shall be unconstitutional. The Supreme Court shall rule on the question of unconstitutionality.

Article 43: Citizens abroad

- (1) The federal government shall encourage relations among the citizens abroad and their relations with Atovia. It may support organizations that pursue this objective.
- (2) It shall legislate on the rights and obligations of Atovians abroad, particularly in relation to the exercise of political rights in the kingdom, the fulfillment of the obligation to perform military or alternative service, welfare support and social security.

Section 2: Initiative and Referendum³

Article 44: [Repealed]

Article 44a: Types of initiatives

- (1) A popular initiative may be proposed by any person eligible to vote in order to do any of the following:
 - (a) request the total revision of the Basic Law in general terms;
 - (b) request the partial revision of the Basic Law in general or specific terms;
 - (c) request a referendum be held on existing legislation within one hundred days of its official publication; or
 - (d) recall a directly elected official before their term of office has ended.
- (2) A provincial initiative may be proposed by any province to request that parliament consider a legislative draft in specific terms.

Article 45: [Repealed]

Article 45a: Requirements for initiatives

- (1) All proposals of initiatives must comply with the following requirements:
 - (a) the proposal must have a title that accurately represents the content of the proposal and is not confusing or misleading;
 - (b) the proposal must have consistency of subject matter. The provisions of the proposal must not pertain to topics outside of the scope of the proposal;
 - (c) the proposal must have consistency of form. If it does not have consistency of form, it will be treated as a general proposal;
 - (d) the proposal must not violate any higher law; and
 - (e) the proposal must not be obviously impossible or impractical to implement.

Article 46: [Repealed]

Article 46a: Proposal of popular initiatives

- (1) Any person eligible to vote may propose a popular initiative.
- (2) Upon the proposal of a popular initiative, the Supreme Court shall declare either that that the proposal is valid in scope and compliant with the requirements listed in Article 45a of this Basic Law as well as any other requirements defined by law or that the proposal is invalid in whole or in part.
- (3) The gathering of signatures for a popular initiative must not begin until the Supreme Court has declared that the proposal is valid as per clause (2) of this Article.
- (4) A popular initiative must collect a number of valid signatures equal to one-quarter of the number of persons eligible to vote. For the popular initiative to be put to a vote, these signatures must be collected within one hundred days of the declaration required by clause (2) of this Article.

³ Amended by the popular vote on 35 Fünat 07

Article 46b: Proposal of provincial initiatives

- (1) The process for the proposal of provincial initiatives may be legislated by the provinces. This process must take into account the representation of all citizens of the province.
- (2) Parliament shall consider and publicly respond to all provincial initiatives that meet the requirements of Article 45a of this Basic Law and all other requirements as defined by law.

Article 46c: Process of proposal

- (1) Proposals in general terms shall be considered by parliament. If they support the proposal, they shall draft the requested changes and submit them to a referendum. If they reject the proposal, they shall submit it to a vote of the people which shall decide whether the proposal is adopted or rejected. If the vote passes, parliament shall draft the requested changes.
- (2) Proposals in specific terms shall be submitted to a referendum. Parliament may choose to make a statement regarding their support or opposition to the proposal.

Article 47: Counterproposal to popular initiative

- (1) Parliament may draft a counterproposal to any proposed initiative. The counterproposal must be in the same form as the original proposal.
- (2) If there are contradictory proposals, there shall be a third question on which proposal the people prefer.
- (3) The people vote on the initiative and counterproposal at the same time.
- (4) The people may vote in favor of both proposals. In response to the third question, they may indicate the proposal that they prefer if both are accepted.
- (5) If in response to the third question, one proposal receives more votes from the people and the other more votes from the provinces, the proposal that comes into force is the one that achieves the higher sum if the percentage of votes of the people and the percentage of votes of the provinces in the third question are added together.

Article 48: Mandatory referendum

- (1) The following must be put to the vote of the people and the provinces:
 - (a) total or partial revisions to the Basic Law; and
 - (b) emergency national acts that are not based on a provision of the Basic Law and whose term of validity exceeds one year; such national acts must be put to the vote within one year of being passed by parliament.
- (2) The following are submitted to a vote of the people:
 - (a) popular initiatives for a total revision of the Basic Law;
 - (b) popular initiatives for a partial revision of the Basic Law in general terms that have been rejected by parliament; and
 - (c) accession to international organizations.

Article 49: Optional referendum

- (1) If within one hundred days of the official publication of its enactment, any ten percent of the persons eligible to vote or any one province requests it, the following shall be submitted to a vote of the people:
 - (a) national acts;
 - (b) emergency national acts whose term of validity exceeds one year; and
 - (c) national decrees, provided the Basic Law or an act so requires.

Article 50: Implementation of international treaties⁴

- (1) If the decision on the ratification of an international treaty is subject to a mandatory referendum, parliament may incorporate the amendments to the Basic Law that provide for the implementation of the treaty into their decision on ratification.
- (2) If the decision on the ratification of an international treaty is subject to an optional referendum, parliament may incorporate the amendments to the law that provide for the implementation of the treaty into their decision on ratification.

Article 51: Required majorities⁵

- (1) Proposals that are submitted to a vote of the people are accepted if a majority of those who vote approve them.
- (2) Proposals that are submitted to a vote of the people and the provinces are accepted if a majority of those who vote and a majority of the provinces approve them.
- (3) The result of a popular vote in a province determines the vote of the province.
- (4) The territories shall have one collective vote when counting votes of the provinces. The result of the popular vote in all of the territories combined determines the territorial vote.

Chapter 3: Social Objectives

Article 52: Objectives

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall, as a complement to personal responsibility and private initiative, endeavor to ensure that:
 - (a) every person has access to social security;
 - (b) every person has access to the health care that they require;
 - (c) families are protected and encouraged as communities of adults and children;
 - (d) every person who is fit to work can earn their living by working under fair conditions;
 - (e) any person seeking accommodation for themselves and their family can find suitable accommodation on reasonable terms;
 - (f) children and young people as well as persons of employable age can obtain an education and undergo basic and advanced training in accordance with their abilities;
 - (g) children and young people are encouraged to develop into independent and socially responsible people and are supported in their social, cultural, and political integration.

⁴ Amended by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

⁵ Amended by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

- (2) The federal government and the provinces shall endeavor to ensure that every person is protected against the economic consequences of old-age, invalidity, illness, accident, unemployment, maternity, being orphaned and being widowed.
- (3) They shall endeavor to achieve these social objectives within the scope of their constitutional powers and the resources available to them.
- (4) No direct right to state benefits may be established based on these social objectives.

IV. The Kingdom

Chapter 2: The Federal Government and the Realm

Article 53: Aims

- (1) The Kingdom of Atovia shall protect the liberty and rights of the people and safeguard the independence and security of the country.
- (2) It shall promote the common welfare, sustainable development, internal cohesion, and cultural diversity of the country.
- (3) It shall ensure the greatest possible equality of opportunity among its citizens.
- (4) It is committed to the long-term preservation of natural resources and to a just and peaceful international order.

Article 54: Rule of law

- (1) All activities of the state are based on and limited by law.
- (2) State activities must be conducted in the public interest and be proportionate to the ends sought.
- (3) State institutions and private persons shall act in good faith.
- (4) The federal government and the provinces shall respect international law.

Article 55: Principle of subsidiarity

- (1) The principle of subsidiarity must be observed in the allocation and performance of state tasks.

Article 56: Individual and collective responsibility

- (1) All individuals shall take responsibility for themselves and shall, according to their abilities, contribute to achieving the tasks of the state and society.

Article 57: Protection of the natural foundations of life and animals

- (1) Mindful also of its responsibility toward future generations, the state shall protect the natural foundations of life and animals by legislation and, in accordance with law and justice, by executive and judicial action, all within the framework of the constitutional order.

Article 58: Securing international peace

- (1) Acts tending to and undertaken with intent to disturb the peaceful relations between nations, especially to prepare for a war of aggression, shall be unconstitutional. They shall be made a criminal offence.

Section 3: The Provinces

Article 59: Autonomy of the provinces

- (1) Each province shall adopt a democratic constitution. This requires the approval of the people and must be capable of being revised if the majority of those eligible to vote so request.

- (2) The constitutional order in the provinces must conform to the principles of a democratic state governed by the rule of law, within the meaning of this Basic Law. In each province, county, and municipality, the people shall be represented by a body chosen in general, direct, free, equal and secret elections. In municipalities, a local assembly may take the place of an elected body.
- (3) Municipalities must be guaranteed the right to regulate all local affairs on their own responsibility, within the limits prescribed by the laws. Within the limits of their functions designated by a law, associations of municipalities shall also have the right of self-government according to the laws. The guarantee of self-government shall extend to the bases of financial autonomy; these bases shall include the right of municipalities to a source of tax revenues based upon economic ability and the right to establish the rates at which these sources shall be taxed.
- (4) The federal government shall guarantee that the constitutional order of the provinces conforms to the basic rights and to the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) of this Article.

Article 60: Sovereign powers of the provinces

- (1) The provinces are sovereign except to the extent that their sovereignty is limited by the Basic Law. They exercise all rights that are not vested in the federal government.

Article 61: Supremacy of national law

- (1) National law shall take precedence over provincial or local laws.

Article 62: Equal citizenship and public service

- (1) Every Atovian shall have in every province the same political rights and duties.
- (2) Every Atovian shall be equally eligible for any public office according to their aptitude, qualifications, and professional achievements.
- (3) Neither the enjoyment of civil and political rights, nor eligibility for public office, nor rights acquired in the public service shall be dependent upon religious affiliation. No one may be disadvantaged by reason of adherence or non-adherence to any religious denomination or philosophical creed.
- (4) The exercise of sovereign authority on a regular basis shall, as a rule, be entrusted to members of the public service who stand in a relationship of service and loyalty defined by public law.

Article 63: Legal and administrative assistance and assistance during disasters

- (1) All national and provincial authorities shall render legal and administrative assistance to one another.
- (2) To respond to a grave accident or a natural disaster, a province may call for the assistance of police forces of other provinces, personnel and facilities of other administrative authorities, or the armed forces.
- (3) If a natural disaster or accident endangers the territory of more than one province, the federal government, as far as is necessary to combat the danger, may instruct the provincial governments to place police forces at the disposal of other provinces, and may deploy units of the armed forces to support the police. Measures taken by the federal government pursuant to the first sentence of this clause shall be rescinded at any time at the demand of parliament, and in any event as soon as the danger is removed.

Article 64: Personnel of national authorities

- (1) Civil servants employed by the highest national authorities shall be drawn from all provinces in appropriate proportion. Persons employed by other national authorities shall, as a rule, be drawn from the province in which they serve.
- (2) Laws regarding military service shall also account for both the division of the kingdom into provinces and the regional loyalties of their people.

Article 65: National execution

- (1) If a province fails to comply with its obligations under this Basic Law or other national laws, the federal government, with the consent of parliament, may take the necessary steps to compel the province to comply with its duties.

Section 4: The Territories

Article 66: Autonomy of the territories

- (1) Each territory shall adopt a democratic constitution. This requires the approval of the people and must be capable of being revised if the majority of those eligible to vote so request.
- (2) The constitutional order in the territories must conform to the principles of a democratic state governed by the rule of law, within the meaning of this Basic Law.
- (3) The federal government shall guarantee that the constitutional order of the territories conforms to the basic rights and to the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) of this Article.

Article 67: Sovereign powers of the territories

- (1) The territories are sovereign except to the extent that their sovereignty is limited by the Basic Law.
- (2) The Monarch shall be the head of state of the territories and shall appoint a governor-general to act as head of state in their absence.
- (3) The governor-general of a territory shall exercise the executive power of the Monarch, perform ceremonial functions within the territory, and shall act as a liaison to the federal government.
- (4) The territories shall be responsible for their own governments and shall have the power to enact legislation according to the territorial constitutions, so long as this Basic Law is not contravened.

Article 68: Citizenship and immigration

- (1) All residents and citizens of the whole Atovian Realm shall be full Atovian citizens and shall have the same rights as all other citizens.
- (2) The territories shall have the power to control the movement of non-Atovian citizens within their borders.

Article 69: National execution

- (1) If a territory fails to comply with its obligations under this Basic Law or other national laws, the federal government, with the consent of parliament, may take the necessary steps to compel the territory to comply with its duties.

Chapter 3: Powers

Section 2: Relations with Foreign States

Article 70: Foreign relations

- (1) National relations with foreign states shall be conducted by the federal government.
- (2) Before the conclusion of a treaty affecting the special circumstances of a province, that province shall be consulted in timely fashion.
- (3) As far as the provinces have power to legislate, they may conclude treaties with foreign states with the consent of the federal government.

Section 3: Security, National Defense, and Civil Defense

Article 71: Security

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall, within the scope of their powers, ensure the security of the country and the protection of the population.
- (2) They shall coordinate their efforts in the area of internal security.

Article 72: Armed forces

- (1) Atovia shall have armed forces. In principle, the armed forces shall be organized as a militia.
- (2) The armed forces serve to prevent war and to maintain peace; they defend the country and its population. They shall support the civilian authorities in safeguarding the country against serious threats to internal security and in dealing with exceptional situations. Further duties may be provided for by law.
- (3) The deployment of the armed forces is the responsibility of the federal government.

Article 73: Military service and alternative service

- (1) Every Atovian citizen is required to do military service. Alternative civilian service shall be provided for by law.
- (2) Any Atovian citizen who does not do military or alternative service is liable to pay a tax. This tax is levied, assessed, and collected by the federal government.
- (3) The federal government shall legislate for fair compensation for loss of income.
- (4) Persons who suffer damage to their health or lose their lives while doing military or alternative civilian service are entitled to appropriate support from the federal government, whether for themselves or for their next of kin.

Article 74: Armed forces organization, training, and equipment

- (1) Armed forces legislation, together with the organization, training, and equipment of the armed forces, is the responsibility of the federal government.
- (2) The federal government may, in return for appropriate compensation, take over the running of provincial military installations.

Article 75: States of emergency

- (1) A state of emergency is a situation of danger or disaster in which a government suspends normal constitutional procedures to regain control over the situation. This may include the allocation of funds or the deployment of emergency services or the armed forces.

- (2) Either the Monarch or Chancellor of Atovia may declare a national state of emergency if they have deemed it necessary to maintain the constitutional order.
- (3) Provinces and territories must make provisions for the declaration of emergencies within their constitutions.
- (4) The House of Commons may declare a national state of emergency with a four fifths vote.
- (5) The declarer of a state of emergency may terminate the state of emergency at will. The House of Commons may terminate a state of emergency with a two thirds vote.

Article 76: Civil defense

- (1) The legislation on the civil defense of persons and property against the effects of armed conflicts is the responsibility of the federal government.
- (2) The federal government shall legislate on the deployment of civil defense units in the event of disasters and emergencies.
- (3) It may declare civil defense service to be compulsory for all citizens.
- (4) The federal government shall legislate on fair compensation for loss of income.
- (5) Persons who suffer damage to their health or lose their lives while doing civil defense service are entitled to appropriate support from the federal government, whether for themselves or for their next of kin.

Section 4: Education, Research, and Culture

Article 77: School education

- (1) The provinces are responsible for the system of school education.
- (2) They shall ensure the provision of an adequate basic education is available to all children. Basic education is mandatory and is managed or supervised by the federal government.
- (3) The provinces shall ensure that adequate special needs education is provided to all children and young people with disabilities until the date of their twenty-second birthday.
- (4) Where harmonization of school education is not achieved by means of coordination in the areas of school entry age and compulsory school attendance, the duration and objectives of levels of education, and the transition for one level to another, as well as the recognition of qualifications, the federal government shall issue regulations to achieve such harmonization.
- (5) The federal government shall regulate the start of the school year.
- (6) The provinces shall participate in the drafting of national legislation on school education that affects provincial responsibilities, and special account shall be taken of their opinions.

Article 78: Vocational and professional education and training

- (1) The federal government shall issue regulations on vocational and professional education and training.
- (2) It shall encourage the provision of a diverse and accessible range of courses in vocational and professional education and training.

Article 79: Research

- (1) The federal government shall promote scientific research and innovation.
- (2) It may make its support conditional on quality assurance and coordination being guaranteed.
- (3) It may establish, take over or run research institutes.

Article 80: Statistics

- (1) The federal government shall compile the necessary statistical data on the status and trends in the population, the economy, society, education, research, the land and the environment in Atovia.
- (2) It may issue regulations on the harmonization and maintenance of official registers to reduce the cost of compiling data.

Article 81: Encouragement of children and young people

- (1) In fulfilling their duties, the federal government and the provinces shall take account of the special need of children and young people to receive encouragement and protection.
- (2) The federal government may supplement provincial measures by supporting extracurricular work with children and young people.

Article 82: Musical education

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall encourage musical education, particularly that of children and young people.
- (2) They shall endeavor within the scope of their powers to ensure high-quality music teaching in schools. If the provinces are unable to harmonize the goals of music teaching in schools by means of coordination, the federal government shall issue the required regulations.
- (3) In consultation with the provinces, the federal government shall set out principles to help young people to engage in musical activities and to encourage musically gifted persons.

Article 83: Sport

- (1) The federal government shall encourage sport, and particularly education in sport.
- (2) It may issue regulations on sport for young people and declare the teaching of sport in schools to be compulsory.

Article 84: Culture

- (1) Cultural matters are a provincial responsibility.
- (2) The federal government may support cultural activities of national interest as well as art and music, particularly in the field of education.
- (3) In the fulfillment of its duties, it shall take account of the diversity of the country.

Article 85: Languages

- (1) The official languages of Atovia are English and German.
- (2) The provinces shall decide on their official languages. To preserve harmony between linguistic communities, the provinces shall respect the traditional territorial distribution of languages and take account of indigenous linguistic groups.

Article 86: Cinema

- (1) The federal government may encourage Atovian film production and film culture.
- (2) It may issue regulations to promote the diversity and the quality of the cinematographic works that are offered.

Section 5: Environment and Spatial Planning

Article 87: Sustainable development

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall endeavor to achieve a balanced and sustainable relationship between nature and its capacity to renew itself and the demands placed on it by the population.

Article 88: Protection of the environment

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on the protection of the population and its natural environment against damage or nuisance.
- (2) It shall ensure that such damage or nuisance is avoided. The costs of avoiding or eliminating such damage or nuisance are borne by those responsible for causing it.
- (3) The provinces are responsible for the implementation of the relevant national regulations, except where the law reserves this duty for the federal government.

Article 89: Spatial planning

- (1) The federal government shall lay down principles on spatial planning. These principles are binding on the provinces and serve to ensure the appropriate and economic use of the land and its properly ordered settlement.
- (2) The federal government shall encourage and coordinate the efforts of the provinces and shall cooperate with them.
- (3) The federal government and the provinces shall take account of the requirements of spatial planning in fulfilling their duties.

Article 90: Water

- (1) The federal government shall, within the scope of its powers, ensure the economic use and the protection of water resources and provide protection against the harmful effects of water.
- (2) It shall lay down principles on the conservation and exploitation of water resources, the use of water to produce energy, and for cooling purposes, as well as on other measures affecting the water-cycle.
- (3) It shall legislate on water protection, on ensuring appropriate residual flow, on hydraulic engineering and the safety of dams, and on measures that influence precipitation.
- (4) The provinces shall manage their water resources. They may levy charges for the use of water, subject to the limits imposed by national legislation. The federal government has the right to use water for its transport operations subject to payment of a charge and compensation.
- (5) The federal government, in consultation with the provinces concerned, shall decide on rights to international water resources and the charges for them. If provinces are unable to agree on rights to interprovincial water resources, the federal government shall decide.
- (6) The federal government shall take account of the concerns of the province in which the water originates in fulfilling its duties.

Article 91: Forests

- (1) The federal government shall ensure that the forests are able to fulfill their protective, commercial, and public amenity functions.
- (2) It shall lay down principles on the protection of the forests.
- (3) It shall encourage measures for the conservation of the forests.

Article 92: Protection of natural and cultural heritage

- (1) The protection of natural and cultural heritage is the responsibility of the provinces.
- (2) In the fulfillment of its duties, the federal government shall take account of concerns for the protection of natural and cultural heritage. It shall protect the countryside and places of architectural, historical, natural, or cultural interest; it shall preserve such places intact if required to do so in the public interest.
- (3) It may support efforts made for the protection of natural and cultural heritage and acquire or preserve properties of national importance by contract or through compulsory purchase.
- (4) It shall legislate on the protection of animal and plant life and on the preservation of their natural habitats and their diversity. It shall protect endangered species from extinction.
- (5) Moors and wetlands of special beauty and national importance shall be preserved. No buildings may be built on them, and no changes may be made to the land, except for the construction of facilities that serve the protection of the moors or wetlands or their continued use for agricultural purposes.

Article 93: Fishing and hunting

- (1) The federal government shall lay down principles on fishing and hunting and particularly on the preservation of the diversity of fish species, wild mammals, and birds.

Article 94: Protection of animals

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on the protection of animals.
- (2) It shall particularly regulate:
 - (a) the keeping and care of animals;
 - (b) experiments on animals and procedures conducted on living animals;
 - (c) the use of animals;
 - (d) the import of animals and animal products;
 - (e) the trade in animals and the transport of animals;
 - (f) the slaughter of animals.
- (3) The enforcement of the regulations is the responsibility of the provinces, except where the law reserves this to the federal government.

Section 6: Public Construction Works and Transport

Article 95: Public construction works

- (1) The federal government may, in the interests of the country as a whole or a large part of it, conduct and operate public construction works, or provide support for such construction works.

Article 96: Road transport

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on road transport.
- (2) It shall exercise supervisory control over roads of national importance; it may decide which transit roads must remain open to traffic.
- (3) Public roads may be used free of charge. Parliament may authorize exceptions.

Article 97: National roads

- (1) The federal government shall ensure the construction of a network of motorways and shall guarantee that they remain useable.
- (2) The federal government shall construct, operate, and maintain the national roads. It bears the costs thereof. It may assign this task wholly or partly to public or private bodies or combined public-private bodies.

Article 98: Heavy vehicle charge

- (1) The federal government may levy a capacity or mileage-related charge on heavy vehicle traffic where such traffic creates public costs that are not covered by other charges or taxes.
- (2) The net revenue from the charge shall be used to cover the costs incurred in connection with the road traffic.
- (3) The provinces are entitled to a share of the net revenue. In the assessment of the shares allocated, the consequences that levying the charge have for mountainous and remote regions shall be considered.

Article 99: Railways and other modes of transport

- (1) The legislation on rail transport, cableways, shipping, aviation and space travel is the responsibility of the federal government.

Section 7: Energy and Communications**Article 100: Energy policy**

- (1) Within the scope of their powers, the federal government and the provinces shall endeavor to ensure a sufficient, diverse, safe, economic, and environmentally sustainable energy supply as well as the economic and efficient use of energy.
- (2) The federal government shall establish principles on the use of local and renewable energy sources and on the economic and efficient use of energy.
- (3) The federal government shall legislate on the use of energy by installations, vehicles and appliances. It shall encourage the development of energy technologies, particularly in the fields of saving energy and the renewable energy sources.
- (4) The provinces shall be primarily responsible for measures relating to the use of energy in buildings.
- (5) The federal government shall take account in its energy policy of the efforts made by the provinces and the business community; it shall take account of the conditions in the individual regions of the country and the limitations of what is economically feasible.

Article 101: Nuclear energy

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation in the field of nuclear energy.

Article 102: Transport of energy

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on the transport and the supply of electrical energy.
- (2) The federal government is responsible for legislation on transmission and distribution systems for the transport of liquid or gaseous fuels.

Article 103: Postal and telecommunications services

- (1) The federal government is responsible for postal and telecommunications services.
- (2) The federal government shall ensure the adequate, universal, and reasonably priced provision of postal and telecommunications services in all regions of the country.

Article 104: Radio and television

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation on radio and television as well as on other forms of public broadcasting of features and information.
- (2) Radio and television shall contribute to education and cultural development, to the free shaping of opinion and to entertainment. They shall take account of the particularities of the country and the needs of the provinces. They shall present events accurately and allow a diversity of opinions to be expressed appropriately.
- (3) The independence of radio and television as well as their autonomy in deciding programming is guaranteed.
- (4) Account must be taken of the role and duties of other media, particularly the press.

Section 8: The Economy

Article 105: Principles of the economic system

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall abide by the principle of economic freedom.
- (2) They shall safeguard the interests of the Atovian economy as a whole and, together with the private sector, shall contribute to the welfare and economic security of the population.
- (3) They shall endeavor within the scope of their powers to create favorable general conditions for the private sector.
- (4) Any divergence from the principle of economic freedom, and in particular measures designed to restrain competition, shall be permitted only if they are provided for in the Basic Law or based on provincial monopoly rights.

Article 106: Competition policy

- (1) The federal government shall legislate against the damaging effects in economic or social terms of cartels and other restraints on competition.
- (2) It shall take measures:
 - (a) to prevent abuses in price maintenance by dominant undertakings and private and public law organizations;
 - (b) against unfair competition.

Article 107: Consumer protection

- (1) The federal government shall take measures to protect consumers.
- (2) It shall legislate on the legal remedies available to consumer organizations. These organizations shall have the same rights under the national legislation on unfair competition as professional and trade associations.
- (3) The provinces shall provide a conciliation procedure or a simple and rapid court procedure for claims of up to a certain sum. The Ministry of Finance determines this sum.

Article 108: Banks and insurance companies

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on the banking and stock exchange system; in doing so, it shall take account of the special function and role of the provincial banks.
- (2) It may legislate on financial services in other fields.
- (3) It shall legislate on private insurance.

Article 109: Monetary policy

- (1) The federal government is responsible for money and currency; the federal government has the exclusive right to issue coins and banknotes.
- (2) The Bank of Atovia, as an independent central bank, shall pursue a monetary policy that serves the overall interests of the country; it shall be administered with the cooperation and under the supervision of the federal government.
- (3) The Bank of Atovia shall create sufficient currency reserves from its revenues; part of these reserves shall be held in gold or other precious metals.
- (4) A minimum of two thirds of the net profits made by the Bank of Atovia shall be allocated to the provinces.

Article 110: Economic policy

- (1) The federal government shall take measures to achieve balanced economic development, and particularly to prevent and combat unemployment and inflation.
- (2) It shall take account of economic development in individual regions of the country. It shall cooperate with the provinces and the business community.
- (3) In the field of money and banking, in foreign economic affairs and in the field of public finance, the federal government may, if necessary, depart from the principle of economic freedom.
- (4) The federal government and the provinces shall take account of the economic situation in their revenue and expenditure policies.
- (5) To stabilize the economic situation, the federal government may temporarily levy surcharges or grant rebates on national taxes and duties. The accumulated funds must be held in reserve; following their release, direct taxes shall be individually refunded, and indirect taxes used to grant rebates or to create jobs.
- (6) The federal government may oblige businesses to accumulate reserves for the creation of jobs; it shall for this purpose grant tax concessions and may require the provinces to do the same. Following the release of the reserves, businesses shall be free to decide how the funds are applied within the scope of the uses permitted by law.

Article 111: Foreign economic policy

- (1) The federal government shall safeguard the interests of the Atovian economy abroad.
- (2) In particular cases, it may take measures to protect the domestic economy. In doing so, it may, if necessary, depart from the principle of economic freedom.

Article 112: National economic supply

- (1) The federal government shall ensure that the country is supplied with essential goods and services in the event of the threat of politico-military strife or war, or of severe shortages that the economy cannot by itself counteract. It shall take precautionary measures to address these matters.
- (2) In exercising its powers under this Article, it may, if necessary, depart from the principle of economic freedom.

Article 113: Structural policy

- (1) The federal government may support regions of the country that are under economic threat and promote specific economic sectors and professions if reasonable self-help measures are insufficient to ensure their existence. In exercising its powers under this Article, it may, if necessary, depart from the principle of economic freedom.

Article 114: Agriculture

- (1) The federal government shall ensure that agricultural sector, by means of a sustainable and market-oriented production policy, makes an essential contribution towards:
 - (a) the reliable provision of the population with foodstuffs;
 - (b) the conservation of natural resources and the upkeep of the countryside;
 - (c) decentralized population settlement of the country.
- (2) In addition to the self-help measures that can be reasonably expected in the agriculture sector and if necessary, in derogation from the principle of economic freedom, the federal government shall support farms that cultivate the land.
- (3) The federal government shall organize measures in such a manner that the agricultural sector fulfills its multi-functional duties. It has the following powers and duties:
 - (a) supplementing revenues from agriculture by means of direct subsidies to achieve of fair and adequate remuneration for the services provided, subject to proof of compliance with ecological requirements;
 - (b) encouraging by means of economically advantageous incentives methods of production that are specifically near-natural and respectful of both the environment and livestock;
 - (c) legislating on declarations of origin, quality, production methods and processing procedures for foodstuffs;
 - (d) protecting the environment against the detrimental effects of the excessive use of fertilizers, chemicals, and other auxiliary agents;
 - (e) at its discretion, encouraging agricultural research, counselling and education and subsidize investments;
 - (f) at its discretion, legislating on the consolidation of agricultural property holdings.
- (4) For these purposes, the federal government shall provide both funds earmarked for the agricultural sector and general national funds.

Article 115: Alcohol

- (1) The legislation on the manufacture, import, rectification, and sale of alcohol obtained by distillation is the responsibility of the federal government. The federal government shall particularly take account of the harmful effects of alcohol consumption.

Article 116: Gambling

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on gambling, including telecommunications-based gambling; in doing so it shall take account of provincial interests.

Article 117: Weapons and war material

- (1) The federal government shall legislate against misuse of weapons and their accessories and ammunition.
- (2) It shall legislate on the manufacture, procurement, and sale of war material as well as the import, export, and transit of such material.

Section 9: Housing, Employment, Social Security, and Health

Article 118: Construction of housing and home ownership

- (1) The federal government shall encourage the construction of housing, the acquisition of the ownership of apartments and houses for the personal use of private individuals, as well as the activities of developers and organizations involved in the construction of public utility housing.
- (2) It shall particularly encourage the acquisition and development of land for the construction of housing, increased efficiency in construction and the reduction of construction and housing costs.
- (3) It may legislate on the development of land for housing construction and on increasing the efficiency of construction.
- (4) In doing so, it shall take account of the interests of families, elderly persons, persons on low incomes and persons with disabilities.

Article 119: Property owner and tenant

- (1) The federal government shall legislate against abuses in tenancy matters, and particularly against unfair rents, as well as on the procedure for challenging unlawfully terminated leases and the limited extension of leases.

Article 120: Employment

- (1) The federal government may legislate on:
 - (a) employee protection;
 - (b) relations between employer and employee, and particularly on common regulations on operational and professional matters;
 - (c) recruitment services;
 - (d) the declaration of collective employment agreements to be generally applicable.
- (2) Collective employment agreements may be declared generally applicable only if they take appropriate account of the justified interests of minorities and regional particularities, and they respect the principle of equality before the law and the right to form professional associations.

Article 121: Support for persons in need

- (1) Persons in need shall be supported by their province of residence. The federal government shall regulate exceptions and powers.

Article 122: Health and accident insurance

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on health and accident insurance.
- (2) It may declare health and the accident insurance to be compulsory, either in general terms or for individual sections of the population.

Article 123: Primary medical care

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall, within the scope of their powers, ensure the adequate provision of high quality primary medical care that is accessible to all. They shall recognize and promote family medicine as an essential component of primary care.
- (2) The federal government shall legislate on:
 - (a) basic and continuing education and training for family medicine professions and the requirements for practicing these professions;
 - (b) appropriate remuneration for family medicine services.

Article 124: Health protection

- (1) The federal government shall, within the limits of its powers, take measures for the protection of health.
- (2) It shall legislate on:
 - (a) the use of foodstuffs as well as therapeutic products, narcotics, organisms, chemicals, and items that may be dangerous to health;
 - (b) the combating of communicable, widespread, or particularly dangerous human and animal diseases;
 - (c) protection against ionizing radiation.

Article 125: Research on human beings

- (1) The federal government shall legislate on research on human beings where this is required to protect their dignity and privacy. In doing so, it shall preserve the freedom to conduct research and shall take account of the importance of research to health and society.
- (2) The federal government shall adhere to the following principles in relation to biological and medical research involving human beings:
 - (a) It is a requirement for any research project that the participants or their legal representatives have given their informed consent. The law may provide for exceptions. A refusal is binding in every case.
 - (b) The risks and stress for the participants must not be disproportionate to the benefits of the research project.
 - (c) A research project involving persons lacking the capacity to consent may be conducted only if findings of equal value cannot be obtained from research involving persons who have the capacity to consent. If the research project is not expected to bring any immediate benefit to the persons lacking the capacity to consent, the risks and stress must be minimal.
 - (d) An independent assessment of the research project must have determined that the safety of the participants is guaranteed.

Article 126: Reproductive medicine and gene technology involving human beings

- (1) Human beings shall be protected against the misuse of reproductive medicine and gene technology.
- (2) The federal government shall legislate on the use of human reproductive and genetic material. In doing so, it shall ensure the protection of human dignity, privacy and the family and shall particularly adhere to the following principles:
 - (a) All forms of cloning and interference with the genetic material of human reproductive cells and embryos are unlawful.
 - (b) Non-human reproductive and genetic material may neither be introduced into nor combined with human reproductive material.
 - (c) The procedures for medically-assisted reproduction may be used only if infertility or the risk of transmitting a serious illness cannot otherwise be overcome, but not in order to conceive a child with specific characteristics or to further research; the fertilization of human egg cells outside a woman's body is permitted only under the conditions laid down by the law; no more human egg cells may be developed into embryos outside a woman's body than are required for medically-assisted reproduction.
 - (d) The donation of embryos and all forms of surrogate motherhood are unlawful.
 - (e) The trade in human reproductive material and in products obtained from embryos is prohibited.
 - (f) The genetic material of a person may be analyzed, registered, or made public only with the consent of the person concerned or if the law so provides.
 - (g) Every person shall have the right to access data relating to their ancestry.

Article 127: Transplant medicine

- (1) The federal government shall legislate in the field of organ, tissue, and cell transplants. In doing so, it shall ensure the protection of human dignity, privacy, and health.
- (2) It shall particularly lay down criteria for the fair allocation of organs.
- (3) Any donation of human organs, tissue and cells must be free of charge. The trade in human organs is prohibited.

Article 128: Non-human gene technology

- (1) Human beings and their environment shall be protected against the misuse of gene technology.
- (2) The federal government shall legislate on the use of reproductive and genetic material from animals, plants, and other organisms. In doing so, it shall take account of the dignity of living beings as well as the safety of human beings, animals, and the environment, and shall protect the genetic diversity of animal and plant species.

Section 10: Residence and Permanent Settlement of Foreign Nationals

Article 129: Legislation on foreign nationals and asylum

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation on entry to and exit from Atovia, the residence and the permanent settlement of foreign nationals and on the granting of asylum.
- (2) Foreign nationals may be expelled from Atovia if they pose a risk to the security of the country.
- (3) Irrespective of their status under the law on foreign nationals, foreign nationals shall lose their right of residence and all other legal rights to remain in Atovia if they:
 - (a) are convicted with legal binding effect of an offence of intentional homicide, rape or any other serious sexual offence, any other violent offence such as robbery, the offences of trafficking in human beings or in drugs, or a burglary offence; or
 - (b) have improperly claimed social insurance or social assistance benefits.
- (4) Parliament shall define the offences covered by clause (3) in more detail. It may add additional offences.
- (5) Foreign nationals who lose their right of residence and all other legal rights to remain in Atovia in accordance with clauses (3) and (4) must be deported from Atovia by the competent authority and must be made subject to a ban on entry of from 5 to 15 years. In the event of reoffending, the ban on entry is for 25 years.
- (6) Any person who fails to comply with the ban on entry or otherwise enters Atovia illegally commits an offence. Parliament shall issue the relevant provisions.

Article 130: Control of immigration

- (1) The Kingdom of Atovia shall control the immigration of foreign nationals autonomously.
- (2) No international agreements may be concluded that breach this Article.
- (3) The law shall regulate the details.

Section 11: Civil Law, Criminal Law, Weights, and Measures

Article 131: Civil law

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation in the field of civil law and the law of civil procedure.
- (2) The federal government is responsible for the organization of the courts and the administration of justice in civil matters unless the law provides otherwise.

Article 132: Criminal law

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation in the field of criminal law and the law of criminal procedure.
- (2) The federal government is responsible for the organization of the courts, the administration of justice in criminal cases as well as for the execution of penalties and measures, unless the law provides otherwise.
- (3) The federal government may issue regulations on the execution of penalties and measures. It may grant subsidies to the provinces for:
 - (a) the construction of penal institutions;
 - (b) improvements in the execution of penalties and measures;
 - (c) institutions that conduct educative measures for the benefit of children, adolescents, and young adults.
- (4) Life incarceration
 - (a) If a sex offender or violent offender is regarded in the reports required for sentencing as being extremely dangerous and their condition assessed as untreatable, he or she must be incarcerated until the end of their life due to the high risk of reoffending. Early release and release on temporary license are not permitted.
 - (b) Only if new scientific findings prove that the offender can be cured and thus no longer represents a danger to the public can new reports be drawn up. If the offender is released based on these new reports, the authorities granting their release must accept liability if he reoffends.
 - (c) All reports assessing sex offenders or violent offenders must be drawn up by at least two experienced specialists who are independent of each other. The reports must take account of all the principles that are important for the assessment.
- (5) No time limit for the right to prosecute or for penalties for sexual or pornographic offences involving prepubescent children
 - (a) The right to prosecute sexual or pornography offences involving prepubescent children and the penalties for such offences is not subject to a time limit.
- (6) Measure relating to sexual offences involving children or persons who are incapable of judgement or resistance
 - (a) Persons convicted of harming the sexual integrity of a child or of a dependent person shall permanently lose the right to continue a profession or voluntary activity involving minors or dependent persons.

Article 133: Victim support

- (1) The federal government and the provinces shall ensure that persons who have suffered harm to their physical, mental, or sexual integrity as the result of a criminal act receive support and are adequately compensated if they experience financial difficulties as a result of that criminal act.

Article 134: Weights and measures

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation on weights and measures.

Chapter 4: Financial System

Article 135: Financial management

- (1) The federal government shall maintain its income and expenditure in balance over time.
- (2) The ceiling for total expenditure that is to be approved in the budget is based on the expected income after taking account of the economic situation.
- (3) Exceptional financial requirements may justify an appropriate increase in the ceiling in terms of clause (2). Parliament shall decide on any increase in accordance with Article 155 clause (3) letter c.
- (4) If the total expenditure in the national accounts exceeds the ceiling in terms of clauses (2) or (3), compensation for this additional expenditure must be made in subsequent years.
- (5) The details are regulated by law.

Article 136: Principles of taxation

- (1) The main structural features of any tax, in particular those liable to pay tax, the object of the tax and its assessment, are regulated by law.
- (2) Provided the nature of the tax permits it, the principles of universality and uniformity of taxation as well as the principle of taxation according to ability to pay are applied.
- (3) Interprovincial double taxation is prohibited. The federal government shall take the measures required.

Article 137: Direct taxes

- (1) The federal government may levy a direct tax:
 - (a) of a maximum of 11.5 per cent on the income of private individuals;
 - (b) of a maximum of 8.5 per cent of the net profit of legal entities;
- (2) The federal government, in fixing the taxation rates, shall take account of the burden of direct taxation imposed by the provinces.
- (3) In relation to the tax on the income of private individuals, regular revisions shall be made to compensate for the consequences of an increased tax burden due to inflation.
- (4) The tax is assessed and collected by the provinces. A minimum of 17 per cent of the gross revenue from taxation is allocated to the provinces. This share may be reduced to 15 per cent if the consequences of financial equalization so require.

Article 138: Tax harmonization

- (1) The federal government shall set out principles on the harmonization of the direct taxes imposed by the federal government and the provinces; it shall take account of the efforts towards harmonization made by the provinces.
- (2) Harmonization shall extend to tax liability, the object of the tax and the tax period, procedural law and the law relating to tax offences. Matters excluded from harmonization shall include tax scales, tax rates, and tax allowances.
- (3) The federal government may issue regulations to prevent unjustified tax benefits.

Article 139: Value added tax

- (1) The federal government may levy value added tax on the supply of goods, on services, including goods and services for personal use, and on imports, at a standard rate of a maximum of 6.5 per cent and at a reduced rate of at least 2.0 per cent.
- (2) The law may provide for the taxation of accommodation services at a rate between the reduced rate and the standard rate.
- (3) 5 per cent of the non-earmarked revenues shall be used to reduce the health insurance premiums of persons on low incomes, unless an alternative method of assisting such persons is provided for by law.

Article 140: Special consumption taxes

- (1) The federal government may level special consumption taxes on:
 - (a) tobacco and tobacco products;
 - (b) distilled spirits;
 - (c) beer;
 - (d) automobiles and their parts;
 - (e) petroleum, other mineral oils, natural gas, and products obtained by refining these resources, as well as on motor fuels.
- (2) It may levy a surcharge on the consumption tax on motor fuels.
- (3) The provinces shall receive ten per cent of the net proceeds from the taxation of distilled spirits. These funds must be used to fight the causes and effects of substance addiction.

Article 141: Stamp duty and withholding tax

- (1) The federal government may levy a stamp duty on securities, on receipts for insurance premiums and on other commercial deeds; deeds relating to property and mortgage transactions are exempt from stamp duty.
- (2) The federal government may levy a withholding tax on income from moveable capital assets, on lottery winnings and on insurance benefits. 10 per cent of the tax revenue shall be allocated to the provinces.

Article 142: Customs duties

- (1) The federal government is responsible for legislation on customs duties and other duties on the cross-border movement of goods.

Article 143: Embargoes

- (1) Parliament shall have the power to impose embargoes on foreign entities.
- (2) The chancellor shall have the power to impose temporary embargoes on foreign entities only during a declared national emergency.
- (3) All embargoes imposed according to the provisions of clause (2) of this Article may be overturned by a two thirds vote of the House of Commons.
- (4) All embargoes imposed according to the provisions of clause (2) of this Article shall cease to be in effect at the termination of the national emergency in which it was imposed.

Article 144: Exclusion of provincial taxation

- (1) Anything that is declared by national legislation to be subject to, or exempt from value added tax, special consumption taxes, stamp duty, or withholding tax may not be made liable to similar taxes by the provinces.

Article 145: Equalization of financial resources and burdens

- (1) The federal government shall issue regulations on the equitable equalization of financial resources and burdens between the federal government and the provinces as well as among the provinces.
- (2) The equalization of financial resources and burdens is intended in particular to:
 - (a) reduce the differences in financial capacity among the provinces;
 - (b) guarantee the provinces a minimum level of financial resources;
 - (c) compensate for excessive financial burdens on individual provinces due to geo-topographical or socio-demographic factors;
 - (d) encourage interprovincial cooperation on burden equalization;
 - (e) maintain the tax competitiveness of the provinces by national and international comparison.
- (3) The funds for the equalization of financial resources shall be provided by those provinces with a higher level of resources and by the federal government. The payments made by those provinces with a higher level of resources shall amount to a minimum of two thirds and a maximum of 80 per cent of the payments made by the federal government.

V. The Instrument of Government

Chapter 2: General Provisions

Article 146: Eligibility for election

- (1) Any person eligible to vote, as defined by Article 40, is eligible to be elected or appointed to any government body.

Article 147: Incompatibility⁶

- (1) No member of parliament or the Council of Ministers may concurrently be a member of the Supreme Court.
- (2) [Repealed]
- (3) [Repealed]
- (4) Clause (1) of this Article does not apply to positions or activity unrelated to the Kingdom of Atovia.
- (5) The law may provide for further forms of incompatibility and exceptions.
- (6) The Chancellor may not concurrently hold the office of Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

Article 148: Term of office

- (1) Members of Parliament are elected for a maximum term of one year.
- (2) The chancellor is elected for a term of office of two years.
- (3) The chief justice and other judges of the Supreme Court serve a term of three years.
- (4) There are no term limits for the positions mentioned in clauses (1), (2), and (3) of this Article.

Article 149: State liability

- (1) The federal government shall be liable for damage or loss unlawfully caused by its organs in the exercise of official activities.

⁶ Amended by the popular vote on 19 January 2020

Article 150: Consultation procedure

- (1) The provinces, the political parties, and interested groups shall be invited to express their views when preparing important legislation or other projects of substantial impact as well as in relation to significant international treaties.

Chapter 3: Parliament

Section 2: Organization

Article 151: Status

- (1) Subject to the rights of the people and the provinces, parliament is the supreme authority of the kingdom.
- (2) Parliament comprises one chamber, the House of Commons.

Article 152: Composition and election of the House of Commons

- (1) The House of Commons is composed of representatives of the people from each province.
- (2) The number of representatives from each province shall be determined by the number of citizens of that province. The number of representatives from each province shall be proportional to distribution of the national population.
- (3) The people directly elect the representatives according to the rules of Single Transferrable Vote. A parliamentary election is held at least every twelve months.

Article 153: Sessions

- (1) Parliament convenes in session regularly. The convening of sessions is governed by law.
- (2) The Council of Ministers or one quarter of the members of parliament may request that parliament be convened for an extraordinary session.

Article 154: Premiership

- (1) The prime minister shall be chosen by the monarch of Atovia and shall serve at their pleasure.

Article 155: Parliamentary committees

- (1) Parliament forms committees from its members.
- (2) The law may delegate specific powers, which may not be legislative in their nature, to committees.
- (3) To fulfill their duties, the committees have the right to information and to inspect documents and the power to conduct investigations. The extent of such rights and powers is governed by the law.

Article 156: Parliamentary groups

- (1) The members of the House of Commons may form parliamentary groups.

Article 157: Parliamentary services

- (1) The House of Commons has parliamentary services at its disposal. It may call on the services of offices of the Council of Ministers. The details are regulated by law.

Section 3: Procedure

Article 158: Public meetings

- (1) Meetings of the House of Commons are held in public. The law may provide for exceptions.

Article 159: Quorum and required majority

- (1) Parliament is quorate if a majority of its members are present.
- (2) Decisions are taken in parliament by the majority of those who vote.
- (3) However, the consent of an absolute majority of the members of parliament is required for:
 - (a) a declaration that a national act is urgent;
 - (b) provisions on subsidies, guarantee credits or spending ceilings that involve new non-recurrent expenditure of more than \$100 or new recurrent expenditure of more than \$20;
 - (c) an increase in overall expenditure in the case of extraordinary financial requirements in terms of Article 132 clause (3).
- (4) Parliament may, by ordinance, adjust subsidies made in terms of clause (3) letter b in line with inflation.

Article 160: Right to submit initiatives and motions

- (1) Any member of parliament, a parliamentary group, a parliamentary committee, as well as any province has the right to submit an initiative to parliament.

Article 161: Prohibition of voting instructions

- (1) No member of parliament may vote on the instructions of another person.
- (2) Members must disclose their links to interest groups.

Article 162: Immunity

- (1) The members of parliament as well as the chancellor may not be held liable for statements that they make in parliament or in its organs.
- (2) The law may provide for further forms of immunity and extend its scope to include other persons.

Section 4: Powers

Article 163: Form of parliamentary enactments

- (1) Parliament shall enact provisions that establish binding legal rules in the form of national acts or ordinances.
- (2) Other enactments are promulgated in the form of a national decree; a national decree that is not subject to a referendum is known as a “simple national decree.”

Article 164: Legislation

- (1) All significant provisions that establish binding legal rules must be enacted in the form of a national act. These include in particular fundamental provisions on:
 - (a) the exercise of political rights;
 - (b) the restriction of constitutional rights;
 - (c) the rights and obligations of persons;
 - (d) those liable to pay tax as well as the subject matter and assessment of taxes and duties;
 - (e) the duties and services of the federal government;
 - (f) the obligations of the provinces in relation to the implementation and enforcement of national law; and
 - (g) the organization and procedure of the national authorities.
- (2) Legislative powers may be delegated by national act unless this is prohibited by the Basic Law.

Article 165: Emergency legislation

- (1) National acts whose coming into force cannot be delayed (emergency acts) may be declared urgent by an absolute majority of the members of parliament and be brought into force immediately. Such acts must be of limited duration.
- (2) If a referendum is requested on an emergency act, the act must be repealed one year after being passed by parliament if it has not in the meantime been approved by the people.
- (3) An emergency act that does not have the Basic Law as its basis must be repealed one year after being passed by the parliament if it has not in the meantime been approved by the people and the provinces. Any such act must be of limited duration.
- (4) An emergency act that is not approved in a popular vote may not be renewed.

Article 166: Foreign relations and international treaties

- (1) Parliament shall participate in shaping foreign policy and supervise the maintenance of foreign relations.
- (2) It shall approve treaties, except for those that are concluded by the Council of Ministers under a statutory provision or an international treaty. Such approval requires a two thirds vote.⁷

Article 167: Finance

- (1) Parliament determines the expenditure of the kingdom, adopts the budget, and approves the national accounts.

Article 168: Appointments

- (1) The chancellor shall nominate candidates to the position of chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court.⁸
- (2) Parliament shall have the right to confirm or deny the candidates individually.

Article 169: Oversight

- (1) Parliament exercises oversight over the Council of Ministers, the national courts, and other bodies entrusted with the tasks of the kingdom.
- (2) Official secrecy does not apply in dealings with the special delegations of supervisory committees that are established under the law.

Article 170: Evaluation of effectiveness

- (1) Parliament shall ensure that national measures are evaluated regarding their effectiveness.

Article 171: Tasks of the Council of Ministers

- (1) Parliament may assign functions to the Council of Ministers. The details are regulated by law, and in particular how parliament may intervene in matters that fall within the remit of the Council of Ministers.

Article 172: Relations between parliament and the provinces

- (1) Parliament shall ensure the maintenance of good relations between the federal government and the provinces.
- (2) It shall guarantee the provincial constitutions.
- (3) It shall decide whether to approve interprovincial agreements and treaties between provinces and foreign countries where the Council of Ministers or a province raises an objection to any such treaty.

⁷ Adopted by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

⁸ Amended by the popular vote on 3 June 2019

Article 173: Further duties and powers

- (1) Parliament has the following additional duties and powers:
 - (a) Taking measures to safeguard external security and the independence of Atovia;
 - (b) Taking measures to safeguard internal security;
 - (c) If extraordinary circumstances require, issuing ordinances or simple national decrees to fulfill its duties under letters (a) and (b);
 - (d) Regulating active service and mobilizing the armed forces or sections thereof for this purpose;
 - (e) Taking measures to enforce national law;
 - (f) Ruling on the validity of popular initiatives that meet the formal requirements;
 - (g) Participating in the general planning of state activities;
 - (h) Deciding on individual acts where a national act expressly so provides; and
 - (i) Deciding on conflicts of jurisdiction between the highest national authorities.
- (2) Parliament also deals with matters that fall within the remit of the federal government and are not the responsibility of any other authority.
- (3) Other duties and powers may be delegated by law to parliament.

Chapter 4: The Council of Ministers

Section 2: Organization and Procedure

Article 174: Composition and appointment

- (1) The Council of Ministers is composed of as many ministers as is required to effectively run the federal government.
- (2) The members of the Council of Ministers are appointed by the chancellor on the recommendations of the prime minister.
- (3) They are appointed to a term of no fixed length. This term is limited to the term of the prime minister that appointed them.

Article 175: Presidency

- (1) The prime minister chairs the Council of Ministers.

Article 176: Principle of collegiality and allocation to departments

- (1) The Council of Ministers reaches its decisions as a collegial body.
- (2) For the purposes of preparation and implementation, the business of the Council of Ministers is allocated to its individual members according to their portfolio.
- (3) Business may be delegated to and directly dealt with by ministries or their subordinate administrative units; in such cases, the right to legal recourse is guaranteed.

Article 177: Removal from office

- (1) If the House of Commons passes an explicit vote of no confidence in the government or individual members thereof, the government or the members concerned shall be removed from office.⁹

⁹ Amended by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

Section 3: Powers

Article 178: Government policy

- (1) The Council of Ministers decides on the objectives of federal government policy and how they should be achieved. It plans and coordinates state activities.
- (2) It informs the public fully and in suitable time about its activities, unless overriding public or private interests prevent this.

Article 179: Right to initiate legislation

- (1) The Council of Ministers submits drafts of legislation to parliament.

Article 180: Law-making and implementation of legislation

- (1) The Council of Ministers enacts legislative provisions in the form of ordinances, provided it has the authority to do so under the Basic law or other legislation.
- (2) It ensures the implementation of legislation, the resolutions of parliament and the judgments of judicial authorities.

Article 181: Finances

- (1) The Council of Ministers draws up the financial plan and the draft budget and prepare the national accounts.
- (2) It ensures orderly financial management.

Article 182: External and internal security

- (1) The Council of Ministers takes measures to safeguard external security, and the independence of Atovia.
- (2) Similarly, the Council takes measures to safeguard the internal security of the kingdom.
- (3) The Council of Ministers may, in direct application of this Article, issue ordinances and rulings to counter existing or imminent threats of serious disruption to public order or internal or external security. Such ordinances must be limited in duration.
- (4) In cases of emergency, the Council of Ministers may mobilize the armed forces. Where it mobilizes more than 25 percent of the members of the armed forces for active service or where the deployment of such troops is expected to last for more than three weeks, parliament must be convened without delay.

Article 183: Relations between the council of ministers and the provinces

- (1) The Council of Ministers is responsible for maintaining relations between the federal government and the provinces and collaborates with the latter.
- (2) It may approve provincial legislation when required to do so by national law.
- (3) It may object to treaties between provinces or between provinces and foreign countries.
- (4) It ensures compliance with national law, as well as the provincial constitutions and provincial treaties and takes the measures required to fulfill this duty.

Article 184: Further duties and powers

- (1) The Council of Ministers also has the following duties and powers:
 - (a) Supervising bodies entrusted with national duties;
 - (b) Reporting regularly to parliament on the conduct of its business as well as on the situation in Atovia;
 - (c) Making appointments that do not fall within the remit of other authorities; and
 - (d) Dealing with appeals, where the law so provides.
- (2) Other duties and powers may be delegated by law to the Council of Ministers.

Chapter 5: The Monarch

Section 2: Succession and Procedure

Article 185: Royal Houses

- (1) A royal house of Atovia may only be formed by individuals that are:
 - (a) Registered and active citizens of Atovia; and
 - (b) Members of the Atovian nobility at any rank.
- (2) New royal houses must be approved by the heads of all other eligible royal houses, as well as all members of the Atovian nobility. This group shall be known as the Royal Council.

Article 186: Royal succession

- (1) The Monarch of Atovia shall be selected from within the royal house of the previous Monarch by the method of absolute primogeniture when possible.
- (2) Should the Monarch be under the age of eighteen years when they succeed to the throne, parliament shall appoint a Regent to perform the royal functions until the Monarch has attained the age of eighteen years. The date on which the Monarch attains the age of eighteen years shall be deemed to be the date of their accession. The regency shall be disestablished on the same date.
- (3) Should the royal house of the current monarch become extinct, the Royal Council shall convene within thirty days to elect a new monarch according to the rules of instant-runoff voting. Only the head of an eligible royal house may be elected.

Article 187: Incapacity of the Monarch

- (1) If, by reason of ill health, foreign travel or for any other cause, the Monarch is prevented from performing their duties, the first member of the royal house under the valid order of succession who is not prevented from doing so shall assume and perform the duties of the Monarch in the capacity of Regent ad interim.
- (2) If the Monarch has been continuously prevented for six months from performing their duties, or has failed to perform their duties, the federal government shall notify parliament. Parliament will determine whether the Monarch shall be deemed to have abdicated.

Article 188: Limitations of the regency

(1) In no instance may the Regent grant royal assent to a bill that would change the order of succession to the Atovian throne.

Article 189: Eligibility

(1) No person who is not an Atovian citizen or has not attained the age of eighteen years may serve as Monarch.

Article 190: Incompatibility

(1) No holder of any executive, legislative, or judicial post within the Kingdom of Atovia may at the same time be the Monarch or Regent of Atovia.

Article 191: Procedure

(1) The Monarch shall be kept informed by the prime minister and the chancellor concerning the affairs of the kingdom.
(2) The Council of Ministers convenes as Council of State under the leadership of the Monarch when so required.

Section 3: Powers

Article 192: Government powers

(1) The Monarch is the primary head of state of the Kingdom of Atovia.
(2) The Monarch retains the power of royal prerogative, which shall be defined by law, and may not be infringed.
(3) The Monarch retains the power to grant or refuse royal assent to all legislation.¹⁰
(4) The Monarch may issue Royal Edicts. These edicts hold the same power as any other legislation and are binding. A Royal Edict may not contravene acts of Parliament or this Basic Law.
(5) The Monarch cannot be prosecuted for their actions. Neither can a Regent be prosecuted for their actions as Head of State.

Chapter 6: The Chancellor

Section 2: Election and Procedure

Article 193: Election

(1) The Chancellor of Atovia is elected for a two-year term according to the rules of Instant-Runoff Voting.

Article 194: Eligibility

(1) All citizens that are eligible to vote are eligible to be elected to the office of the chancellor.

¹⁰ Adopted by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

Article 195: Removal from office

- (1) The House of Commons may impeach the chancellor before the expiry of their term of office for willful violation of this Basic Law or of any other national law. The motion of impeachment must be supported by at least one quarter of the members of the House of Commons. The decision to impeach shall require a vote of two thirds of the members of the House of Commons. The case for impeachment shall be presented before the Supreme Court by a person commissioned by the impeaching body.
- (2) If the Supreme Court finds the chancellor guilty of a willful violation of this Basic Law or of any other national law, it may declare that the chancellor has forfeited their office. After the chancellor has been impeached, the Court may issue an interim order preventing them from exercising their functions.

Section 3: Powers

Article 196: Government powers

- (1) The chancellor is the secondary head of state of the Kingdom of Atovia.
- (2) The chancellor retains legislative veto power.
- (3) The chancellor, or a minister acting on behalf of the chancellor, has the sole power to negotiate treaties on behalf of the kingdom. Such treaties must be approved by an act of parliament according to Article 165, clause (2).¹¹
- (4) The Members of the Council of Ministers are appointed by the chancellor. The prime minister must submit a list of candidates that they wish to have appointed. The chancellor may reject any of these requests and may also propose a different individual. This process repeats until all positions are filled, or both the prime minister and the chancellor are satisfied with the appointments.
- (5) The chancellor may issue Executive Orders. These orders hold the same power as any other legislation and are binding. An Executive Order may not contravene acts of Parliament, Royal Edicts, or this Basic Law.

Chapter 7: The Supreme Court and other Judicial Authorities

Article 197: Status

- (1) The Supreme Court is the supreme judicial authority of the kingdom.
- (2) Its organization and procedure are governed by law.
- (3) The Supreme Court has its own administration.

Article 198: The Chief Justice¹²

- (1) The chief justice is the head of the federal judicial system and administers all federal courts. They are also the head of the Supreme Court for the length of their term.
- (2) The chancellor, with the approval of parliament, shall appoint the chief justice for a three-year term.
- (3) The chief justice shall have the power to appoint and dismiss all federal judges, except for those on the Supreme Court. Such appointments and dismissals are not subject to parliamentary approval.

¹¹ Adopted by the popular vote on 5 May 2019

¹² Adopted by the popular vote on 3 June 2019

Article 199: Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

- (1) The Supreme Court hears disputes concerning violations of:
 - (a) national law;
 - (b) international law;
 - (c) inter-provincial law;
 - (d) provincial constitutional rights;
 - (e) the autonomy of the provinces and other provincial guarantees in favor of public law corporations;
 - (f) national and provincial provisions on political rights.
- (2) It hears disputes between the federal government and provinces or between provinces.
- (3) It hears and decides impeachment proceedings.
- (4) It reviews the constitutionality of legislation passed by parliament by the power of judicial review. Such reviews must occur in a timely fashion following the passage of a bill in parliament.¹³
- (5) The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court may be extended by law.

Article 200: Applicable law

- (1) The Supreme Court and the other judicial authorities apply the national acts and international law.

Article 201: Access to the Supreme Court

- (1) Access to the Supreme Court is guaranteed by law.
- (2) For disputes that do not relate to a legal issue of fundamental importance, the law may stipulate a threshold for the amount in dispute.
- (3) The law may exclude access to the Supreme Court in relation to specific matters.
- (4) The law may provide for a simplified procedure for appeals that are manifestly unfounded.

Article 202: Other national judicial authorities

- (1) The federal government shall appoint a criminal court, which hears at first instance criminal cases that by law come under national jurisdiction. The law may confer further powers on this court.
- (2) The federal government shall appoint judicial authorities to hear public law disputes that come under the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers.
- (3) The law may provide for further national judicial authorities.

Article 203: Provincial judicial authorities

- (1) The provinces shall appoint judicial authorities to judge civil and public law disputes and criminal law cases.
- (2) They may appoint joint judicial authorities.

Article 204: Independence of the judiciary

- (1) The judicial authorities are independent in the exercise of their judicial powers and are bound only by the law.

¹³ Adopted by the popular vote on 3 June 2019

VI. Revision of the Basic Law

Article 205: Principle

- (1) The Basic Law may be totally or partially revised at any time.
- (2) Unless the Basic Law and the legislation based on it provides otherwise, any revision of the Basic Law is made by the legislative process.

Article 206: Total revision

- (1) A total revision of the Basic Law may be proposed by the people or by parliament.
- (2) If the initiative emanates from the people or if parliament is unable to agree, the people decide on whether a total revision should be conducted.
- (3) If the people vote for a total revision, new elections shall be held to parliament.
- (4) The mandatory provisions of international law must not be violated.

Article 207: Partial revision

- (1) A partial revision of the Basic Law may be requested by the people or decreed by parliament.
- (2) The partial revision must respect the principle of cohesion of subject matter and must not violate mandatory provisions of international law.
- (3) The popular initiative for partial revision must also respect the principle of consistency of form.

Article 208: Commencement

- (1) The totally or partly revised Basic Law comes into force when it is approved by the people and the provinces.

VII. Concluding Provisions

Article 209: Ratification

- (1) The ratification of this Basic Law, done by referendum of the people, by the governments of the Atovian provinces, and granted royal assent by the Monarch of Atovia, His Royal Majesty King Connor Stumperth I, shall be lawful and official as of the eleventh day of March in the year two thousand and nineteen of the common era.