

# NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

## L A W

### ON THE BASIS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC INDEPENDENT STATEHOOD

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh proceeding from self-determination law of every nation, the results of referendum on free will expression conducted on December 10, 1991, inalienable right of the NKR population, realizing that free and equal in rights consolidation, their all-round development is guaranteed within the bounds of common political and economic dissemination, attaching necessity to the formation of legislative base by virtue of international law, norms and principles of the population adopts the following Constitutional Law.

I The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh is an independent, democratic state, which chooses the ways of cooperation with other states itself. In the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh the power belongs to people and proceeds from them, who implements it either directly or through representative bodies. The NKR sovereignty is manifested in its territory in the form of independent implementation of legislative, executive and juridical supreme authority - on the benefit of all nations living in its territory.

II The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh solves the problems related to political, economic, social-cultural, constructional and regional administrative system of the Republic independently.

III Regions of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh are Askeran, Martakert, Martouni, Hadrut and Shoushi. The capital of the Republic is Stepanakert.

The territory of NKR is inalienable and, based on free will expression of the population in the referendum, could not be changed without the consent of the Supreme Council, .

The borders of Nagorno Karabakh may be changed only by their mutual consent.

IV Constitutional and juridical status of Nagorno Karabakh could not be changed without the consent of the Supreme Council. The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh establishes its relations with other states by virtue of keeping the principles of sovereign equality, mutual refusal from using force or threat of force, peaceful settlement of moot points, not meddling with inner affairs, respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, rights of equality and directing fate of people, cooperation with states, dilligent implementation of common principles and norms of international law and commitment proceeding from international treaties signed by the USSR.

V Interfering with the settlement of problems making inalienable right of the NKR should be considered as violation of its independent right.

VI Soil, womb, forests and other natural resources are national wealth of the Republic, its state property and belong to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Former union, union-republic and republic objects placed under the authority of departments are the property of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. Economy of the NKR compiles a national economic complex, which includes all rights of distribution and exchange of production in the territory of the Republic.

VII In the Republic equality of all kinds of property right is recognized, and free business is incited. The Republic protects the rights of proprietors, and creates favourable conditions for all kinds of economic activities for ensuring economic independence of the state.

The highest body of state authority of the Republic is the NKR Supreme Council, and during the periods of sessions - the presidency of of the Supreme Council.

The Council of Ministers of NKR, i.e. the Government of NKR, created by the Supreme Council and accountable to it, is an executive and administrative body of state authority of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

Before the adoption of Constitution of NKR, commissions of the NKR Supreme Council, its presidency and the NKR Council of Ministers are defined by the law "On the NKR Supreme Council" and "On the Council of Ministers".

VIII The jurisdiction of the NKR, in the person of state authority and administrative governing body, includes:

1. adopting the NKR Constitution and laws, proposing amendments to them and monitoring their observance:
2. changing the borders of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, creating and liquidating national territorial formations, regions, towns, settlements, villages and other populated areas their naming, renaming and creating and displacing administrative centres:
3. observing sovereignty, state order, rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic. Introducing martial law and state of emergency in the whole territory of the Republic or in separate places, and in case of emergency creating provisional bodies for normalizing the situation, observing law and order, liquidating threat of security of the citizens:
4. appointing chairman of the NKR Supreme Council, asserting the staff of the NKR Supreme Council and proposing amendment to it, creating and liquidating republican ministries, state committees and departments, appointing and dismissing their heads, regulating the management of activities of state authorities and the links, defining the procedure of commissions and principles:
5. conducting social-economic and scientific-technical policy, defining the procedure of exploitation of soil, womb, forests, waters and other natural resources, implementing ecological policy:
6. elaborating and passing state plans of economical, social development, state budget and approving accounts on them:
7. defining control over financial and credit activities of the Republic, passing common tax policy for collecting revenue for creating state budget, establishing central tax

service of the Republic, appointing and dismissing chief inspector, defining the jurisdiction and procedure of activities:

8. monitoring all branches of the national economy and social spheres, conservation of monuments of history, culture and nature:

9. monitoring bodies of internal affairs and national security, organizing Defense Council of armed forces, establishing its structure and controlling their activities:

10. creating Constitutional committee of the NKR Supreme Council, organizing and establishing structures of the Supreme Court and juridicial authority of the Republic, defining their jurisdiction and procedure of activities:

11. Appointing and dismissing chief prosecutor, organizing prosecutor's activity and defining general provisions of the structure:

12. Granting amnesty to citizens condemned by the NKR Courts:

13. Fonctions of foreign policy of the Republic and representation in international relations. The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh is compitent to establish direct relations with foreign states, conclude treaties with them, exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, participate in activities of international organizations:

14. Adopting decrees on the symbols of the NKR state sovereignty:

15. solving problems of republican importance.

IX In the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh a common citizenship is defined. Basis of granting and losing citizenship is defined by the Law "On the NKR citizenship". The procedure and basis of granting a second citizenship is regulated according to treaties with other states.

The NKR citizens, regardless to their origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, religion, character and kind of occupation, have equal rights. Sovereignty of the NKR citizens is guaranteed in all spheres of economical, political, social and cultural life. The Republic guarantees freedom of rights of citizens in the whole volume that is contained in the declaration of human rights and in the norms of international right.

X The official language of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh is Armenian. The Republic provides state support to its development.

The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh ensures free usage and development of Russian and those languages the population master, guarantees the rights of national minorities, creates favourable conditions for their evolvment in all spheres.

XI Operating public-political organizations of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh have equal rights and participate in public-political, social-economic and cultural life of the Republic with equal rights.

XII Symbols of state sovereignty of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh - coat of arms, flag and anthem are sacred and are observed by the law.

XIII Before the adoption of the new NKR Constitution, laws of other countries are valid in the Republic as far as they don't contradict the following law and legislative acts adopted on the basis of the declaration "On the state independence of NKR".

January 01, 1992

Stepanakert

Chairman  
of the NKR Supreme Council  
A.Mkrtchyan

Secretary  
of the NKR Supreme Council  
V.Hakobyan