



**The Constitution  
of  
The Centre for Advanced Legal Studies  
Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka**

**Whereas** the importance of advance research and studies in different disciplines of law is heightened by the fact that the world is changing rapidly through the interplay of various economic, social, political and cultural forces, which invoke a complex, comprehensive yet consistent understanding and interpretation of the law;

**Whereas** the attainment of a developed economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations has been a priority of Bangladesh, which is still struggling against poverty, corruption, hunger, and violation of laws and human rights in several forms;

**Whereas** global terrorism and transnational crimes together with advancements in cyberspace, communication technology, and challenges of climate change are creating persistent and renewed threats of varying degrees against sovereignty and security of the State;

**Whereas** oppression against women and children, violations of rights of minorities and indigenous groups, and several forms of social discrimination are still persistent in the socio-political arenas of the country;

**Whereas** law as a powerful tool of social-engineering can play a significant role in mitigating the above problems by creating a counterhegemonic social order as well as in bringing about social change and empowerment of the poor and the marginal people;

**Whereas** the Faculty of Law of the University of Dhaka as the pioneer law school of the country has the onus to conduct advanced, multi-disciplinary scientific studies and researches in legal fields in order to contribute to the development of law, legal education, and the legal system and thereby to help the country achieve development aspirations; and

**Whereas** in pursuance of the above vision, it becomes an imperative for the University of Dhaka to establish a Centre for advanced research in law in the context of newer socio-political, cultural and economic demands both at the national and international planes;

The University of Dhaka hereby decides to establish a Centre for Advanced Legal Studies in the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, and adopts the following Constitution of the said **Centre for Advanced Legal Studies** through its Syndicate.

## **Part I**

### **1. The Centre and Its Legal Status and Governance:**

- (1) The Centre will be known as the Centre for Advanced Legal Studies, shortly CALS.
- (2) The Centre will be affiliated with the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, and will be regulated, maintained and guided by the rules and regulations of the University of Dhaka and in accordance with this Constitution.
- (3) The Centre will be a not-for-profit, non-political, and an academic organization involving academics, scholars, legal professionals, judges, and law students who will engage in the study and research of legal issues.

### **2. Definitions:** In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires –

- (a) “Centre” means the Centre for Advanced Legal Studies.
- (b) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of the Centre;
- (c) “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Centre;
- (d) “Representative” means expert Representative of the Centre and person elected nominated/appointed to the Executive Committee as such under the Constitution of the Centre;
- (e) “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made by the Executive Committee;
- (f) “Auditor” means an auditor approved by the Executive Committee;
- (g) “Year” means the Academic (calendar) Year of the University of Dhaka.

## **Part II**

### **3. Objectives:**

The objectives of the Centre are as follows:

- (i) To conduct research on contemporary issues of both municipal and international laws in the context of broader socio-political, cultural and economic spheres and to produce a domestic interpretation of international legal texts so as to strengthen the position and status of the State in regional and international affairs.

- (ii) To strengthen academic links, collaborations and exchanges between different Universities and research institutions/centres of different universities in the Asia and Pacific region and other parts of the world and to promote the Centre as a leading centre of legal scholarship of the country.
- (iii) To promote collaboration and exchange programs between universities and to hold seminars, conferences, workshops and trainings on various contemporary socio-legal issues.
- (iv) To undertake aid appraisal and evaluation of legal studies with a view to provide policy inputs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assistance to the Government of Bangladesh.
- (v) To disseminate knowledge and information on relevant issues through student exchange, publication of books, journals, research monographs, working-papers, lecture series, newsletters, reports etc.
- (vi) To establish and maintain libraries information services, online-resources, web site, documentation facilities in the relevant fields.
- (vii) To cooperate with relevant institutions and organizations both at national and international levels to promote the objectives of the Centre.
- (viii) To institute and grant appropriate fellowships, scholarships, remuneration, award, prizes and stipends for the students and young researchers for furtherance of the objectives of the Centre.
- (ix) To offer Certificate Courses and Diplomas in various specialized areas of law.
- (x) To receive and manage funds from national and international agencies for specific programmes and studies supervised/conducted by the Centre as per the Dhaka University rules.
- (xi) To receive funds, grants, gifts, donations etc. from national and international sources and donor agencies in promoting the Centre's objectives both in cash and kind.
- (xii) To construct, maintain, alter, improve or develop any building or infrastructure necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Centre with due permission of the Dhaka University authority.
- (xiii) To act as a centre for continuing legal education of the academia/ law teachers.
- (xiv) To do all such other lawful activities as are encouraging or incidental to attain the abovementioned objectives and furthering the flourishing of the Centre.

### Part III

#### 4. Organizational Structure:

##### (A) Composition

(a) **Governing Body:** There shall be a Governing Body of the Centre comprising of:

- I. Chair
- II. Director
- III. Treasurer
- IV. Dean of the Faculty of Law (Ex officio)
- V. Chairman of the Department of Law (Ex officio)
- VI. Deputy Directors (Three)
- VII. Members (Three)

(b) **Chair:** The Vice Chancellor of the University will be the *ex officio* Chair of the Centre. The status of the Chair will be honorary.

(c) **Director:** The Director of the Centre will be nominated and appointed by the Vice Chancellor from among the faculty members of the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka and the Director will hold the office for a term of 3 (three) years from the date of his/her nomination/appointment. If the director resigns from the post, or if he/she expresses his/her inability to discharge, or becomes unable to discharge the functions of his/her office on account of his/her illness the Vice Chancellor may appoint a new Director for the Centre from the members of the Executive Committee, immediate next to him. The Director will be entitled to draw a monthly honorarium as per the University Rules.

(d) **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee of the Centre will comprise of not more than 09 (nine) persons which include:

- I. The Director of the Centre
- II. Treasurer (one who will be selected by the Executive Committee from among the Deputy Directors and the members)
- III. Dean of the Faculty of Law (Ex officio)
- IV. Chairman of the Department of Law (Ex officio)

- V. 03 (Three) Deputy Directors nominated by the Faculty (preferably from Professors, but not below the post of Associate Professor)
- VI. Members: 03 (Three) faculty members from the Faculty of Law nominated by the Faculty preferably from Professors or Associate professors, but not below the post of Assistant Professor having PhD/ MPhil or a proven research track.
- VII. The tenure of the Deputy Director and general member of the Executive Committee shall be for a term of 3 (three) years.

(e) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will be selected by the Executive Committee for 03 (Three) years from among the members of the Executive Committee. He/she will be the custodian of the financial records of the Centre. He/she will also discharge such other functions as are assigned to him/her by the Executive Committee.

(B) **Vacancies:** Any vacancy amongst the members of the Executive Committee arising from resignation, removal, death or otherwise may be filled-up including member from the faculty members selected by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Vice Chancellor for the remaining period of that member. The Executive Committee will function notwithstanding any vacancy therein and notwithstanding any defect in its constitution.

## 5. Meetings:

- (a) The meetings of the Governing Body will be convened by the Director as and when deemed necessary provided that it will meet at least once in every year.
- (b) The meetings of the Executive Committee will be convened by the Director as and when deemed necessary provided that it will meet at least once in every 3 (three) months.
- (c) Presence of 4 (four) members will be necessary for quorum.
- (d) The Executive Committee will decide matters by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- (e) An emergency meeting can be called with a 24 (twenty four) hours' notice.
- (f) The minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee will be preserved in the Centre by the Director.
- (g) Every year the Centre has to publish/submit its annual report to the Dhaka University Authority through the Dean of the Faculty.

## **Part IV**

### **6. Power and Functions of Governing Body:**

- (a) The Governing Body shall perform overall supervision of the activities of the Centre.
- (b) The Governing Body shall formulate policies, rules and other administrative guidelines for the development, expansion and advancement of the Centre to make the Centre operational under changing circumstances.
- (c) The Governing Body shall approve rules framed under this constitution or any amendment to this constitution.
- (d) The Governing Body shall make any decision deemed justified and necessary in any unspecified situation that may arise time to time.

### **7. Power and Functions of Executive Committee:**

- (a) The Executive Committee will be responsible for the overall management and administration of the affairs of the Centre in accordance with this Constitution of the Centre for the furtherance of its objectives and will exercise all powers which may be necessary or expedient for the purpose.
- (b) The Executive Committee will determine the honorarium and other expenditures for those engaged in research and various studies sponsored, supervised and conducted by the Centre.
- (c) The Executive Committee will approve an auditor for annual audit of the Centre.
- (d) The Executive Committee will approve all research projects and research fellowships of the Centre.
- (e) The Executive Committee will receive all kinds of grants, donations, scholarships, funds gifts etc.
- (f) The Executive Committee will approve any contract papers, research projects and funds for that.
- (g) The Executive Committee will approve participation in tendering research projects.
- (h) The Executive Committee will confer certificates and diplomas for trainings and researches.
- (i) The Executive Committee will approve any other proposals and activities necessary for pursuance of the objectives of the Centre and its flourishing.

### **8. Powers and Functions of the Director:**

- (a) The Director will be responsible for overall management and administration of the affairs of the Centre subject to the general control of the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Director will have the power with the consensus of the Executive Committee to conduct projects and to appoint research/resource personnel and the administrative and secretarial staff etc. of the Centre.
- (c) The Director will preside over the meeting of the Executive Committee. S/he will perform such other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.
- (d) If the Director is unable to attend the office for a long period, one of the members of the Executive Committee nominated by the Director and approved by the Vice Chancellor will act as the acting Director during the period of his/her absence.
- (e) All contracts entered upon by the Centre will be signed by the Director on behalf of the Centre after the contract document has been approved by the Executive Committee.

## **Part V**

### **9. Financial Management:**

- (i) The Centre will be a self -financed organization run by revenues generated through its activities. The Centre will finance its activities and programmes from the fund, income and resources from (a) the University of Dhaka (b) national and international sources in furtherance of the Centre objectives and grants, gifts, donations etc. both in cash and kind as per government rules and regulations (c) Borrowing investment for furtherance of the objectives of the Centre; (d) Incomes from any endowment for trust fund or donation for the benefit of the Centre; (e) Payment received from services rendered by the Centre personnel to national and international agencies; (f) Sale proceeds from Centre's Journal/publication and (g) other incomes generated through its activities etc.
- (ii) In case the Centre undertakes any sponsored research/ training/ consultancy assignments, it will use the physical facilities of the Department of Law and the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, for which it will allocate an overhead of 15% on total estimated cost of such projects as under:
  - 10% as payment to the account of the University of Dhaka.
  - 3% as reserve in a bank account for expenditure in academic research to be conducted by the faculty members and students of the Department of Law.

- 2% for the development logistics of the Centre.
- (iii) An account system will be established for the Centre in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University. The Centre will keep correct, complete and up-dated registers and records at the office;
  - (iv) The Books of accounts of the Centre will be audited annually by an auditor approved by the Executive Committee.
  - (v) The Centre shall have a bank account in the name “The Centre for Advanced Legal Studies” in a scheduled bank in Dhaka (preferably, Janata/Sonali Bank, the Dhaka University Campus Branch),
  - (vi) The accounts and all financial transactions of the Centre will be operated under the joint signatures of the Director and the Treasurer. In the event of absence of either of them, any member of the Executive Committee nominated and appointed person by the Executive Committee will exercise that signatory power.
  - (vii) The financial transactions of any project of the Centre will be made under the joint signatures of either the Director or the Project Coordinator/Principal Investigator of the project concerned unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee. Project funds will be administered separately.
  - (viii) The Centre will use its income and funds for the furtherance of the objectives of the Centre and no part thereof will be distributed to members of the Executive Committee or any other person or organization.

#### **10. Support Staff:**

The structure and appointment of the support staff for the Centre will be determined according to the requirements and necessity of the Centre on the approval of the Governing Body of the center.

#### **11. Rule Making Authority:**

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make rules under this constitution.

#### **12. Amendment:**

Any article of this Constitution of the Centre can be omitted, amended and new provisions can be included by the Executive Committee subject to the approval by the Governing Body of the Centre and the Syndicate of the University of Dhaka.