

# Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2024

## Arrangement of Sections

### ***Section:***

1. Alteration of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Altered).
2. Alteration of Section 48.
3. Alteration of Section 49.
4. Alteration of Section 71.
5. Alteration of Section 77.
6. Alteration of Section 91.
7. Alteration of Section 117.
8. Citation.



1 equal population as far as possible, provided that no constituency shall fall  
2 within more than one State; and

3 (b) one additional member for each State of the Federation and the Federal  
4 Capital Territory, who shall be women.

5 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing  
6 shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal  
7 constituencies referred to in subsection (1)(a).

8 (3) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) shall commence after the life of the  
9 current National Assembly and shall be reviewed sixteen years after its  
10 commencement.”

11 **4.** Section 71 of the Principal Act is altered by –

12 (a) inserting immediately after 71(a) and (b), a new subsection “(2)” –

13 **“71. Senatorial districts and Federal constituencies**

14 (2) For the purpose of –

15 (a) section 48 (1) (b) of this Constitution, there shall be established an  
16 additional Senatorial seat by the Independent National Electoral Commission  
17 to be occupied by a woman; an

18 (b) section 49 (1) (b) of this Constitution, the Independent National Electoral  
19 Commission shall divide each State of the Federation into two Federal  
20 Constituencies to be occupied by women.”; and

21 (b) renumbering the section appropriately.

22 **5.** Section 77 of the Principal Act is altered –

23 (a) in subsection (1) by inserting after the word, “constituency”, the words, “or  
24 special constituency”; and

25 (b) by inserting a subsection (3) as follows –

26 “(3) In this Part of this Chapter, “**special constituency**” means constituency  
27 specifically reserved from which only women shall be elected from in accordance  
28 with the provisions of Sections 48 and 49 of this Constitution.”

29 **6.** Section 91 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting the existing section 91  
30 with a new section “91” as follows –

31 **“91. Composition of the House of Assembly**

32 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a  
33 State shall consist of –

34 (a) three or four times the number of seats, which that State has in the House  
35 of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal

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1 population; and  
2 (b) one additional member from each of the three senatorial districts in the  
3 State under section 48(1)(a) of this Constitution, who shall be a woman:

4 Provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than  
5 twenty-four and not more than forty-three members;”

6 (2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section, nothing  
7 shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal  
8 constituencies referred to in subsection (1)(a) of this section.

9 (3) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) shall commence after the life of the  
10 current State Houses of Assembly and be reviewed sixteen years after its  
11 commencement.”

12 7. Section 117 of the Principal Act is altered –

13 (a) in subsection (1) by inserting after the word, “constituency”, the words, “or  
14 special constituency”; and

15 (b) by inserting a subsection (3) as follows –

16 “(3) In this Part of this Chapter, “**special constituency**” means constituency  
17 specifically reserved from which only women shall be elected from in accordance  
18 with the provisions of Section 91 of this Constitution.”

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Section 117.

19 8. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,  
20 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024.

Citation.

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### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for seat reservation for women in the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. It seeks to remedy the low representation of women in Legislative Houses by providing for special constituencies to be contested and filled by women as a temporary measure to promote women’s political representation. The provision is subjected to a review after four general election cycles of sixteen years for the purpose of either retaining, increasing, or abolishing the temporary measure.