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## **Azores Autonomous Region**

Legislative Assembly

### **Regional Legislative Decree nr. 18/2019/A**

*Summary:* Azorean Diaspora Council

The history of the Azores, nearly six hundred years old, is marked, since their discovery and settlement, by an intense population dynamic whether with the arrival of populations or the departure of Azoreans, which caused the creation and dissemination dynamic of a particular identity and culture, forged by the history and geography of this Archipelago.

Hence, the Azores and their people have long not been confined only to the territorial archipelagic condition of the nine islands and the sea which form the Region, but, instead, are in a much larger universe, spread all over the world. This dissemination takes on the characteristics of the Diaspora of a People, and initially established itself in South America, asserting an identity, a unity and sense of belonging that, not only still endures, but is intensifying a process which begun about four centuries ago and, later, in the United States of America, Bermuda and Canada, as well as in other coordinates nearly all over the world.

As far as this Diaspora is a fundamental element of cultural, economic, political and institutional affirmation of the Azores Autonomous Region and Portugal in the world, it is important to implement appreciation and recognition mechanisms of the Azorean Diaspora, bring awareness of its importance and potential, as well as its more constant participation also in the public policies which sustain and propel the Azorean project, inside, as well as outside, the Region.

Therefore, the Azores Autonomous Region Legislative Assembly decrees, in the terms of point a) of the number 1 of the article 227<sup>o</sup> of the Portuguese Republic Constitution, and the numbers 1 and 2 of the article 37<sup>o</sup> and point d) of the number 2 of article 60<sup>o</sup> of the Political-Administrative Status of the Azores Autonomous Region, the following:

## Article 1º

### **Object**

It is created, in the scope of the Regional Government department competent in matters of emigration and communities, the Azorean Diaspora Council, from now on designated as ADC.

## Article 2º

### **Scope**

The ADC is the consultative body of the Regional Government that ensures the participation, cooperation and auscultation of the Azoreans in the world, in the project of the Azorean development.

## Article 3

### **Responsibilities**

The ADC must:

- a) Involve the Azoreans living outside the Archipelago in the debate and definition of the Azorean public policies and public projects, especially concerning the increase of the relationship between the Region and the Diaspora in the world;
- b) Issue opinion on legislation, programs or measures taken by the Regional Government related to the Azorean Emigration and Diaspora;
- c) Contribute to the definition and coordination of policies to reinforce the relationship between the Diaspora and the Region, through opinions, suggestions and proposals;
- d) Insure the auscultation and representation of public and private entities which, within the scope of the Region, follow attributions related to Azorean emigration and communities;
- e) Present proposals that meet the needs and aspirations of the Azoreans in the world;
- f) Improve coordination in the actions between partners and intervening entities;
- g) Perform other duties established by law.

## Article 4

### **Structure**

1 - The ADC is structured as follows:

- a) The President of the Azores Regional Government, who presides;
- b) The member of the Regional Government competent in matters of emigration and communities, who stands in for the President in his absence and impediments;

- c) Three representatives of the Azores Autonomous Region Legislative Assembly, limited to one deputy per political party, elected by a majority of two thirds of the deputies effectively in office;
- d) The Councilpersons representative of the various geographic regions of the Azorean Diaspora;
- e) One representative of the Casas dos Açores World Council;
- f) The regional director competent in matters of emigration and Azorean communities;
- g) The regional director competent in matters of social solidarity;
- h) The regional director competent in matters of jobs and professional qualifications;
- i) The regional director competent in matters of culture;
- j) The regional director competent in matters of tourism;
- k) The regional director competent in matters of incentives;
- l) One representative of the society for the entrepreneurial development of the Azores [Sociedade para o Desenvolvimento Empresarial dos Açores];
- m) One representative of the association of municipalities of the Azores Autonomous Region [Associação de Municípios da Região Autónoma dos Açores];
- n) One representative of the emigrant's associations present and active in the Azores;
- o) One representative of the general board for consular and Portuguese communities' affairs [Direção-Geral dos Assuntos Consulares e das Comunidades Portuguesas];
- p) One representative of the Portuguese communities council [Conselho das Comunidades Portuguesas];

2 – Anytime there is an impediment, the members of the ADC mentioned in points l) through p) of the previous number, may be represented by someone else, provided they communicate the fact to the respective president.

3 – Working with ADC is an unpaid work and does not entitle one to attendance tickets.

## Article 5

### **Azorean Diaspora Advisors**

1 – The Advisors for the Azorean Diaspora, for the effects of point d) of the number 1 of article 4, are the Azoreans elected in each of the following geographic areas:

- a) One representative from Bermuda;
- b) Five representatives from Brazil, one from each of the States Rio Grande of the South, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina and São Paulo and one more representing the remaining States of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- c) Five representatives from Canada, one from each of the provinces British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and one more representing the remaining Canadian Provinces and Territories;

- d) Five representatives from the United States of America, one from each of the States of California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and two more representing the remaining States of the United States of America;
- e) One representative from Uruguay;
- f) One representative from the Portuguese mainland and the Autonomous Region of Madeira; and
- g) One representative for the rest of the world.

2 – Any Azorean of age, resident in the Azorean community to be represented has electoral capacity, both active and passive.

3 – By Azorean, it is understood, for the present diploma, any citizen that has had residence for more than five years in one of the geographic areas mentioned in number 1, and who gathers one of the following conditions:

- a) Being born in the Autonomous Region of the Azores;
- b) Being of Azorean ascent;
- c) Having had residence in the Autonomous Regions of the Azores for at least five years.

4 – It is also considered as Azorean, the husband or wife, or the partner in a non-marital partnership with the people mentioned in the previous article.

5 – For the determination of the Azorean Diaspora Counselors, elections are organized from lists by geographic area, being such organization the responsibility of the regional direction competent in matters of emigration and Azorean communities.

6 – The election of the Azorean Diaspora Counselor is the result of the most voted candidate in their geographic area.

7 – The electoral process will be determined by decree from the member of the Regional Government competent in the matters of emigration and Azorean communities.

## Article 6

### **Meetings**

1 – The ADC meets ordinarily every two years, and extraordinary when summoned by its president.

2 – The ADC may also meet extraordinarily when at least one third of its members request it, and in such cases, the subject and order of business should be named.

3 – At the president's invitation, representatives and technicians of the Regional Government's departments and services or other public or private entities, may participate in ADC meetings, as well as citizens whose auscultation or contribute are considered relevant for the ADC activity.

Article 7

**Mandate**

The mandate of the Azorean Diaspora Counselors is of four years.

Article 8

**Functioning support**

It is the task of the regional direction services competent in matters of emigration and Azorean communities to provide technical and administrative support to the functioning of the ADC.

Article 9

**Internal regiment**

The ADC functioning is regulated by internal regiment, approved by dispatch from the member of the Regional Government competent in matters of emigration and Azorean communities, once heard the ADC members and published in official gazette [Jornal Oficial].

Article 10

**Entry into force**

The present diploma enters into force the day following its publication.

Approved by the Azores Autonomous Region Legislative Assembly, at Horta, on July the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2019.

The President of the Legislative Assembly, *Ana Luís*.

Signed at Angra do Heroísmo on July the 19<sup>th</sup> of 2019.

So publish this.

The Republic's Representative for the Azorean Autonomous Region, *Pedro Manuel dos Reis Alves Catarino*.