

Thank you, President of the Assembly,
Honorable Mr. President,
Honorable Mr. Prime Minister,
Dear Members of the Assembly,
Mr. Rucker,
Mr. Feith,
Honorable International Representatives,
Dear members of the Government,
Dear members of the Constitutional Commission
Ladies and Gentleman,

I feel very lucky today to have this special pleasure, as an individual and as a state that on behalf of the Constitutional Commission of the Republic of Kosovo, for the first time in the independent and sovereign Kosovo, in front of You dear Deputies of the Assembly of Kosovo, in front of the citizens of our Republic and democratic world to present the Draft Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

Today by this highest act of our state, we are appreciating the fight for freedom and democracy, peace and taking upon us the responsibility to build a future for all of us and future generations in our independent and democratic state.

Dear members of the Assembly,

We, the Constitutional Commission of the Republic, appreciate the path of our people throughout the centuries, which was full of sacrifices and tragedy, as well as pride.

We appreciate all those that aimed freedom, independence, equality, democracy, Republic and Constitution and fell in the altars of freedom, You who are in this room and all citizens of Kosovo who have actively taken part in the state building and the democratic world that supported peace, justice, freedom, independence and democracy in Kosovo. This path enabled us to have the Constitution which is being approved today. We as a Constitutional Commission of the Republic dedicate our work in drafting of this Constitution to all citizens of the Republic, those that fell and those that are alive.

Dear Deputies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Please allow me to briefly present you the content of our Constitution, which has 14 Chapters and 162 Articles. Our aim was to have a modern, short, and concise Constitution which guarantees the will of the citizens of Kosovo and international commitments and at the same time is functional.

Today in your hands you have the Draft Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo as a basis for building a political, economic and social system in our country, for which on behalf of the people of Kosovo, we have expressed our aims for the future of our free, democratic and peace-loving country, and, as a state of the equals.

The Constitution empowers our Republic as an independent, sovereign, democratic, unique and indivisible state.

The Constitution provides that sovereignty stems from the people and belongs to the people. It guarantees the territorial integrity of Kosovo as intact, inalienable and indivisible and protected by all means allowed.

The Republic of Kosovo is built on the basis of civic equality and is defined as a multi-ethnic society, consisting of Albanian and other Communities, governed democratically with full respect for rule of law and equality of citizens in front of it.

Our Kosovo has been defined as a democratic Republic based upon the principle of separation of powers and the checks and balances between them; where the Assembly has been defined as the highest legislative organ; where the President of the Republic represents the unity of the people and is the guarantor of the democratic functioning of the institutions; where the Government is responsible for implementation of laws and state policies and is subject to parliamentary control. By this Constitution we have institutionalized the power; however we have also limited it.

We have understood this as a contract between the citizens in order to develop and implement public policies.

By this Constitution, our state will have constitutional order which is based on the principles of freedom, peace, democracy, and equality, respect of human rights and freedoms and rule of law, antidiscrimination, property rights, environment protection, social equality, pluralism, open market economy, and equality.

The Republic of Kosovo is a secular state and is neutral in matters of religious beliefs.

Our citizens, at home and abroad will have constitutional guarantees and the care of their state.

Our Republic as an international entity has may conclude international agreements and become member in international mechanisms. We will take obligations for respecting of the international right.

Dear Deputies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human rights and fundamental freedoms is an important Chapter of this Constitution which guarantees the respect, protection and fulfillment of these rights by the state of Kosovo in accordance with highest international standards.

A special chapter is the Rights of Communities which define the principles for these rights, the obligations of the state for those rights, respective institutions for the representation of the in public institutions at the central and municipal level. These rights have been based on the Document of President Ahtisaari.

The justice system is guaranteed by this Constitution. Judicial power is unique, independent, fair, a political and ensures equal access to the courts.

A new and independent institution is the Constitutional Court as a final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and compliance of the laws with the Constitution in the Republic of Kosovo. Decisions of the Constitutional Court are binding on the judiciary and all persons and institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

Dear Deputies,

By this Constitution, the Republic of Kosovo guarantees the market economy with free competition that ensures private and public property, as well as ensures equal legal rights for all investors and domestic and foreign enterprises. Free competition, customer protection and obligation of the citizens to pay the taxes and other fees provided for by law are guaranteed.

The Constitution obliges that public expenditure and the collection of public revenue shall be based on the principles of accountability, effectiveness, efficiency and transparency. This means that out taxpayer will be informed about the public expenditure of their funds. Also the usage of the public health and resources is guaranteed by the Constitution.

The local governance is guaranteed as a level of the government based on a good governance, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and offering of good public services.

Dear members of the Assembly,

Our republic is guaranteed full institutions of the security, which will be under civilian and democratic control. Kosovo Security Force is a national security force of our Republic with the right to send its members abroad in peacekeeping missions. These forces will be professional.

The Republic of Kosovo will have its Security Council as a Council in charge of preparing the security strategy for our Republic.

Our Republic is also guaranteed functioning of the professional Police, Intelligence Agency and Civil Aviation Authority, which shall provide air navigation services.

Independent institutions such as Ombudsperson, Auditor-General, Central Elections Commission, Central Bank, Independent Media Commission, as institutions established by the Assembly which guarantee the independence from any other organ or authority in the Republic of Kosovo. Other agencies deemed necessary may be established by law.

This Constitution has its Final Provisions which provide a picture for interpretation and amendment of the Constitution.

Characteristic of this Constitution are Transitional Provisions which regulate the existing situation under international supervision of our state and cooperation between local institutions and international presence, but at the same time provide for that upon the completion of the transitional phase these competencies to cease – without touching upon the essence of the Constitution.

It is emphasized that this Constitution enters into force on 15th of June this year and if we read provisions of this Constitution we will see that it provides that all existing institutions of Kosovo shall take the competencies in accordance with this Constitution; complete state competencies.

Dear Deputies,

We are enabling to regulate the environment and the state we are living in, we call for your support for the project that is developed in accordance with the circumstances of our state building and international commitments that Republic of Kosovo has undertaken.

We believe this Constitution will reinforce freedom, independence, prosperity and democracy of our state. This Constitution openly and strongly protects the values that shall be governing our state in accordance with civilized world.

This Constitution shall respect the rights of each citizen of our Republic, starting from the premise that one will never be really free until all people do not enjoy the same freedoms.

We are inspired by many drafters and Constitutions of modern and democratic countries, we have compared them, by respecting the legal tradition of our country.

Dear Deputies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear citizens of the Republic,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Constitutional Commission of the Republic of Kosovo has tried to transfer all its human and intellectual capacity in our Draft Constitution.

Above our partisan convictions, ethic and professional lines, the feeling and the need to act together for the sake of our citizens and our state has prevailed and the draft that we have presented today in front of you is approved with full consensus by the Commission.

Dear deputies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear members of the Constitutional Commission,

Please allow me at the end to invite you to adopt this draft Constitution; dear deputies this is an act that will empower our institutions and the support of the international community for them and will give us an orientation as a country side by side developed and advanced countries.

Please allow me to thank the President, Prime Minister, President of the Assembly, all political parties, all citizens of Kosovo and local and international experts for their full, sincere and high quality support; I would especially like to thank members of the Commission for the common work, commitment and long hours of work, patience, respect towards each other, responsibility and opinions given in hundreds of meetings.

As we have said it earlier, we have drafted a Constitution for none of us separately, but for all of us together in our State.

Thank you for attention.