

# **THE FRENTE AMPLIO STRUCTURE**

**A COALITION-MOVEMENT MODEL**

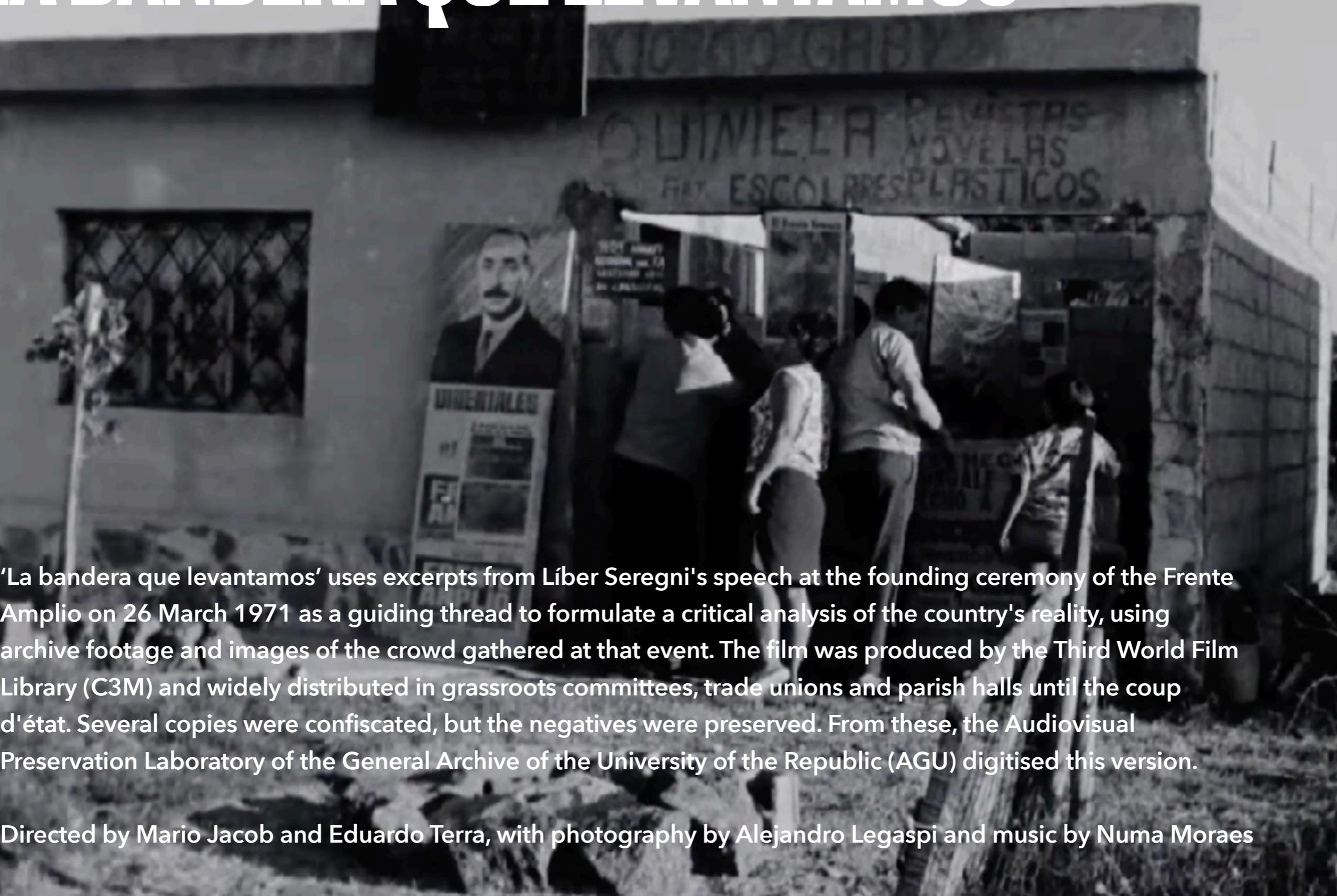
# WHY A COALITION-MOVEMENT?

- • Not only a coalition of parties
- • Not only a social movement
- • Both, simultaneously
- • Grassroots committees + political sectors/ partys
- • Permanent synthesis (no bases vs sectors divide)

# HISTORICAL ROOTS

- • 1929: FEUU student organization
- • 1950s-60s: unions, students, left parties converge
- • 1965 People's Congress: unified platform
- • 1966 CNT: unified national trade union center
- • 1971: creation of the Frente Amplio

# LA BANDERA QUE LEVANTAMOS



'La bandera que levantamos' uses excerpts from Líber Seregni's speech at the founding ceremony of the Frente Amplio on 26 March 1971 as a guiding thread to formulate a critical analysis of the country's reality, using archive footage and images of the crowd gathered at that event. The film was produced by the Third World Film Library (C3M) and widely distributed in grassroots committees, trade unions and parish halls until the coup d'état. Several copies were confiscated, but the negatives were preserved. From these, the Audiovisual Preservation Laboratory of the General Archive of the University of the Republic (AGU) digitised this version.

Directed by Mario Jacob and Eduardo Terra, with photography by Alejandro Legaspi and music by Numa Moraes

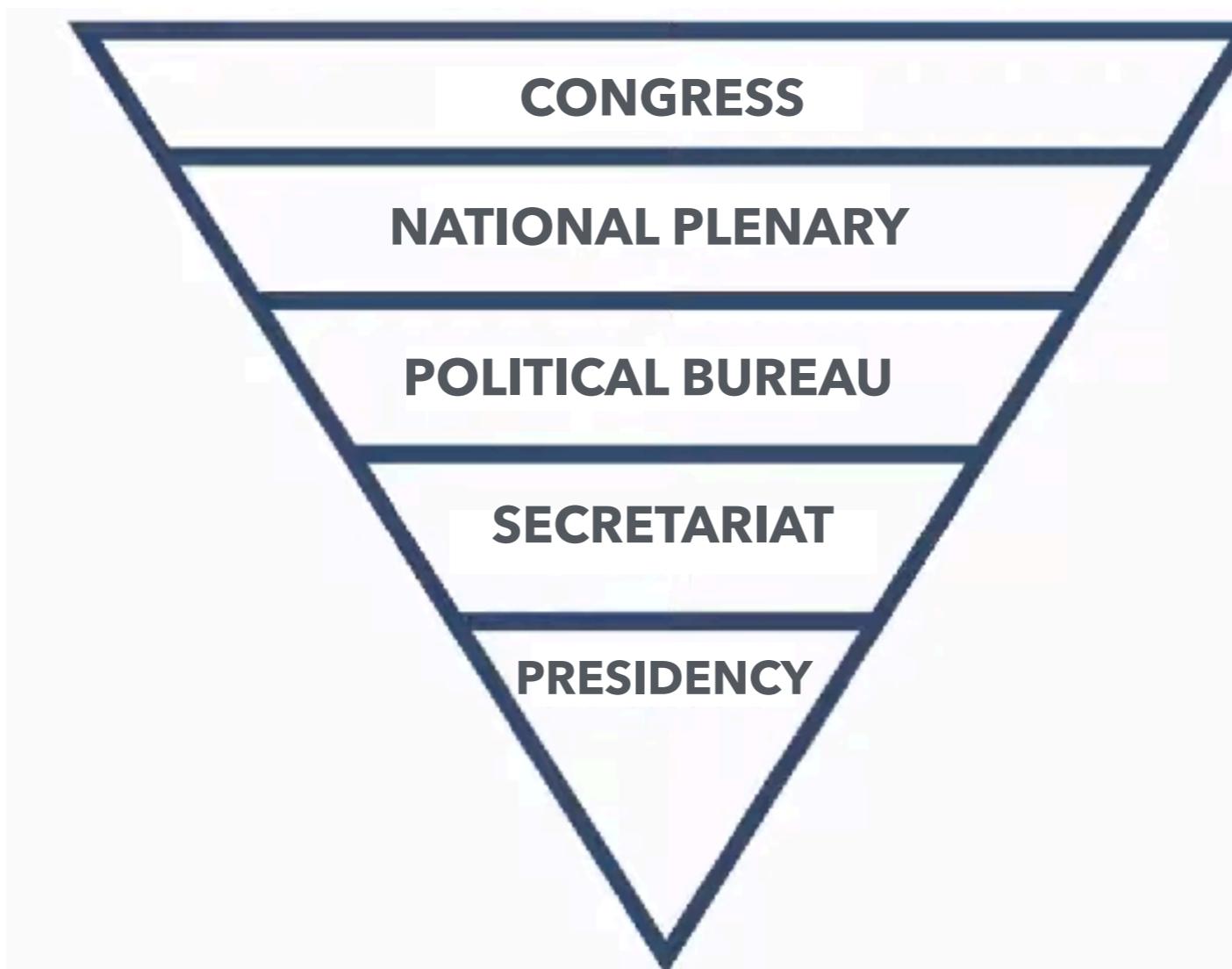
# IDENTITY PRINCIPLES

- • Anti-imperialist
- • Anti-oligarchic
- • Anti-patriarchal (2016)
- • Anti-racist (2016)
- • Democratic
- • Popular

# HOW THE FA WORKS

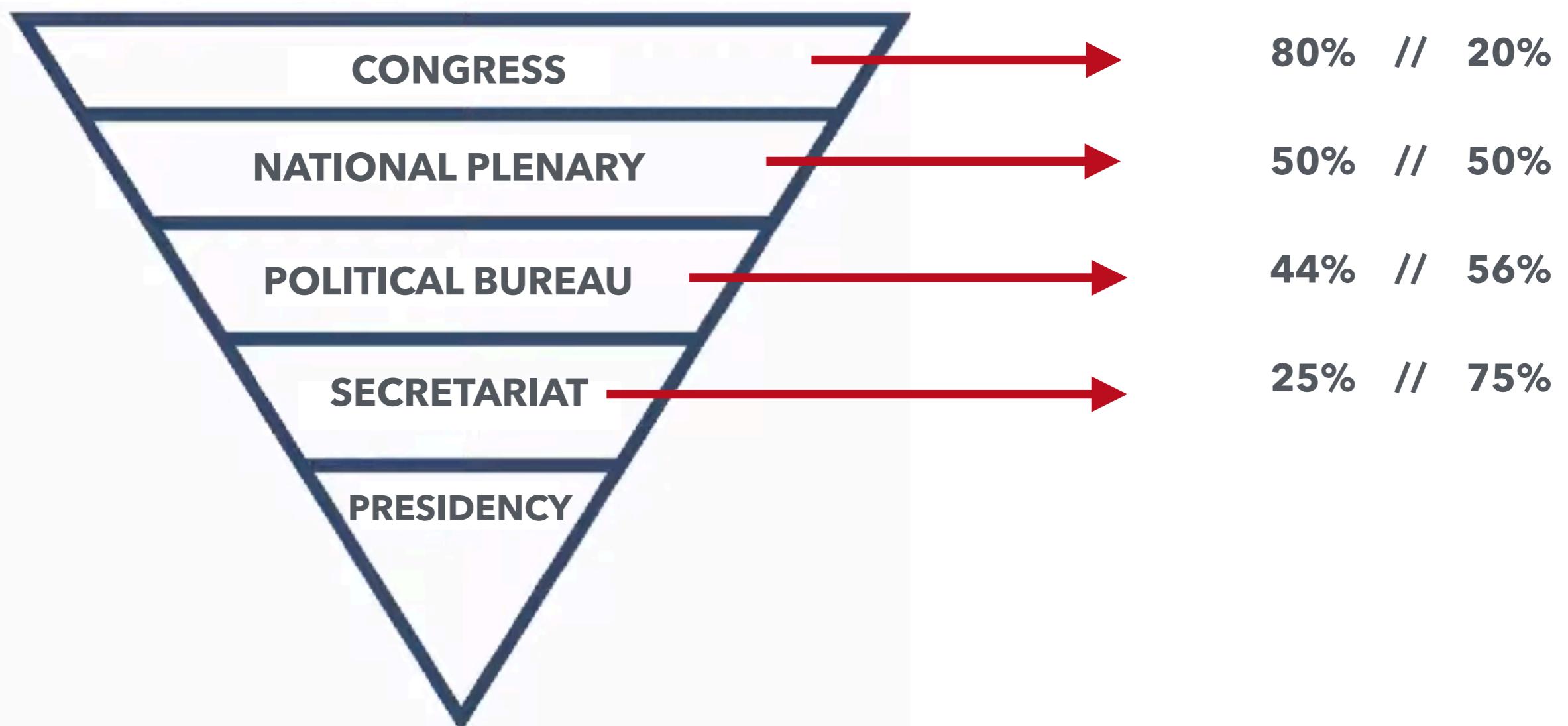
- • The FA functions like an hourglass
- • Bottom: grassroots committees
- • Middle: tactical & daily bodies
- • Top: Congress (strategic decisions)

# DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE

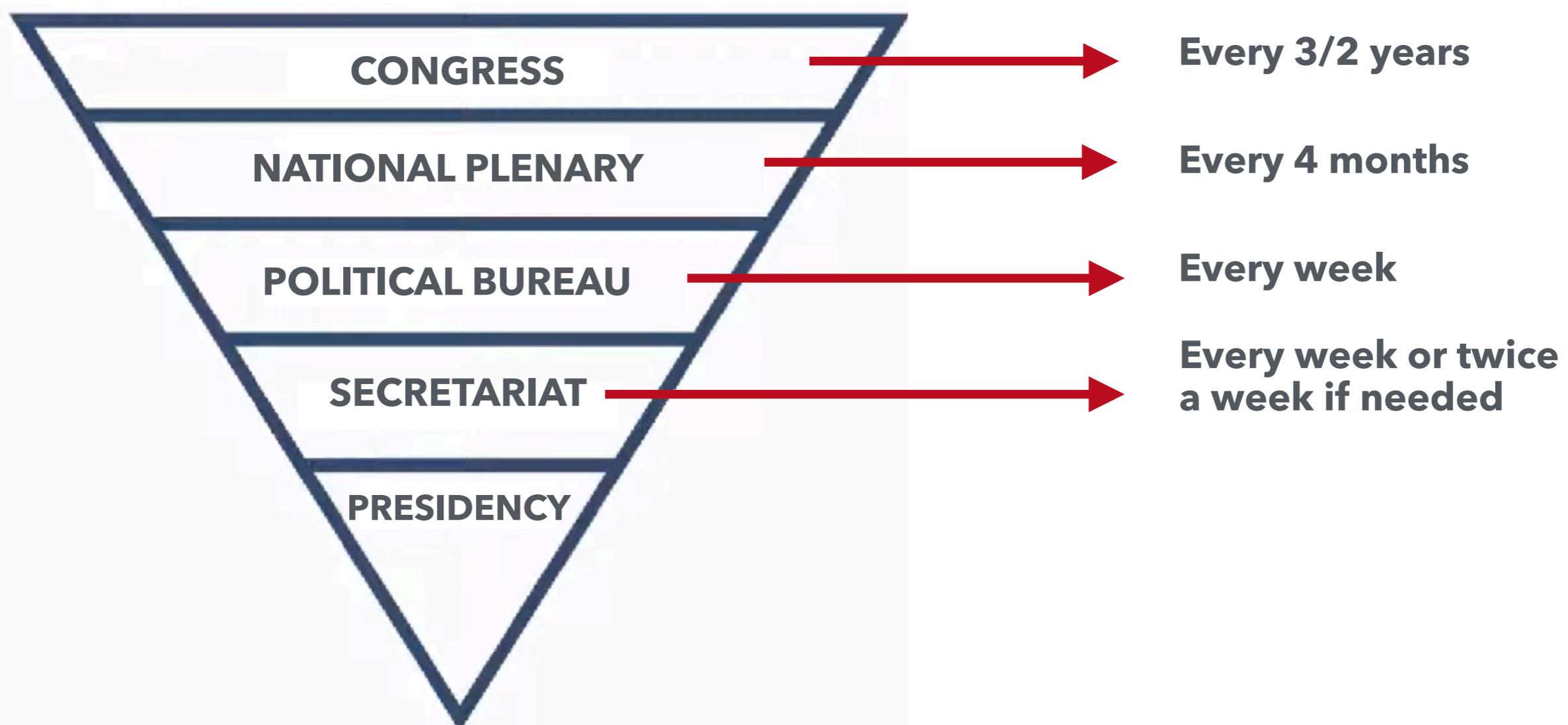


# DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE

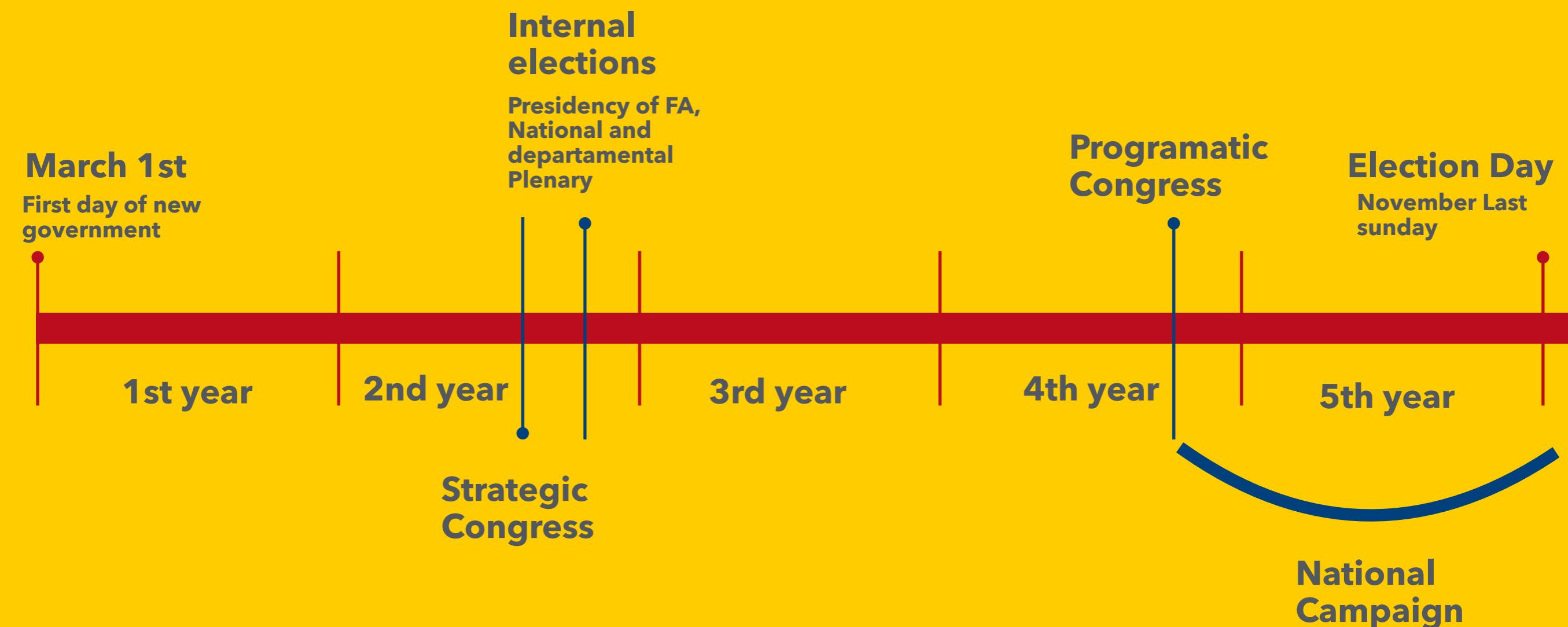
Movement // Coalition



# DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE



# 5 YEARS CICLE



# GRASSROOTS COMMITTEES



# THE NATIONAL CONGRESS



# THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

- • Highest decision-making body
- •  $\approx 80\%$  grassroots delegates
- •  $\approx 20\%$  National Plenary members
- • Approves program & statutes
- • Resolutions require 4/5 majority

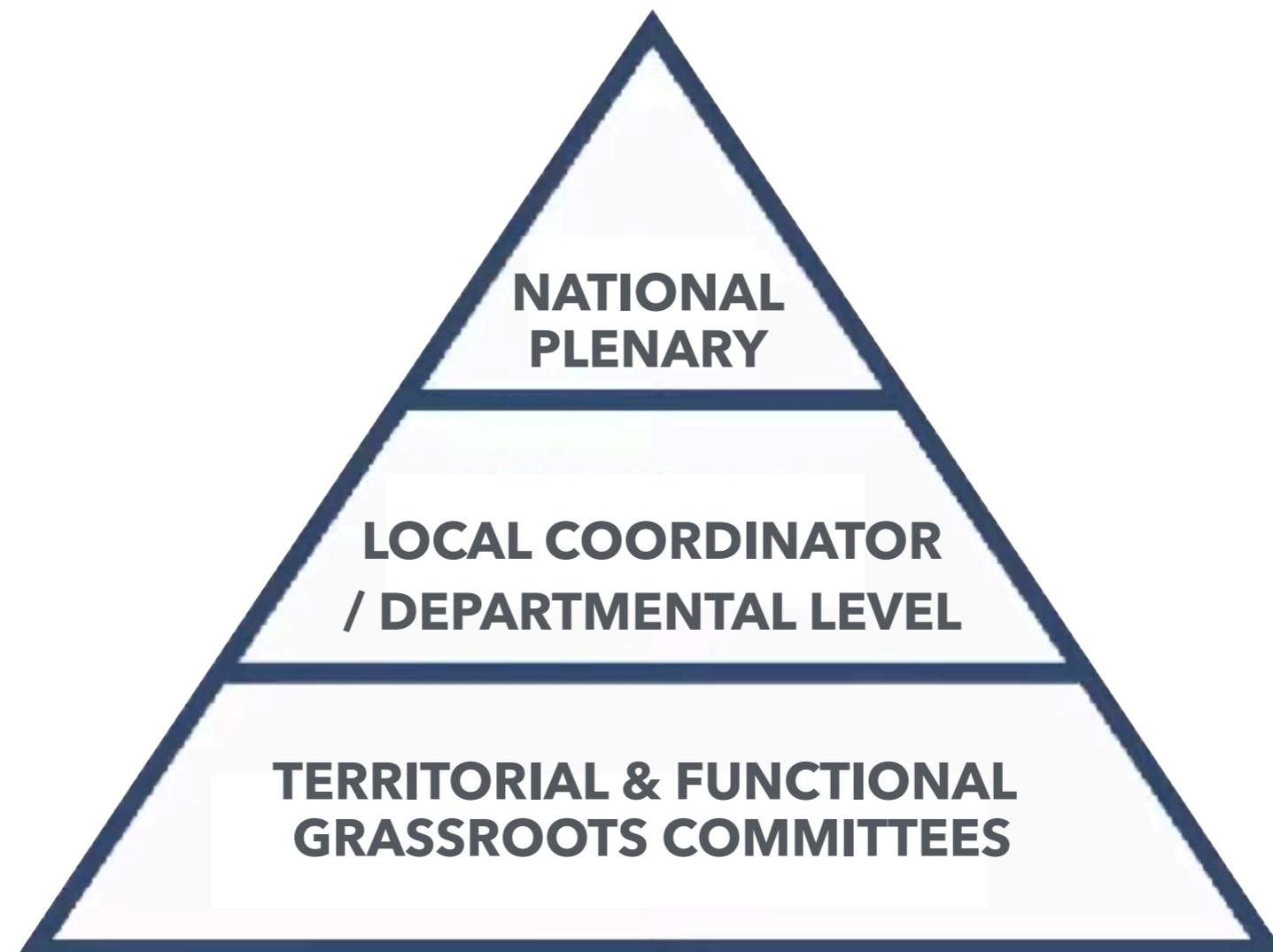
# THE NATIONAL PLENARY

- • 50% grassroots / 50% sectors
- • Interprets Congress strategy
- • Oversees political line
- • Coordinates national action

# DAILY LEADERSHIP

- • Political Bureau meets weekly
- • Secretariat handles urgent matters
- • Implements decisions
- • FA President is the sole spokesperson

# MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION



# GRASSROOTS COMMITTEES

- • Territorial & functional
- • Open to all adherents
- • Debate, propose, vote, create motions
- • Elect delegates
- • Political backbone of the FA

Cxé. PALERMO

GOBIERNO de NARCOS ?  
HACETE GO LUIS !!



# HOW AN IDEA BECOMES POLICY

- • 1) Proposed in a grassroots committee
- • 2) Discussed at department level
- • 3) Elevated to National Plenary
- • 4) Returned to grassroots for national debate
- • 5) Approved by Congress → becomes program
- • 6) If FA wins government → becomes policy

# STRENGTHS OF THE MODEL

- • Deep participatory democracy
- • Long-term unity between diverse actors
- • Strong protection against personalism
- • Ability to incorporate new movements
- • Program built from below

**“WITHIN THE FA, ORGANIZATIONAL RULES GRANT ACTIVISTS A SIGNIFICANT VOICE, WHICH IMBUES ACTIVISTS’ PARTICIPATION WITH A STRONG SENSE OF AGENCY. THIS EXPLAINS ACTIVISTS’ PARTICIPATION WITH A STRONG SENSE OF EFFICACY.”**

**HOW PARTY ACTIVISM SURVIVES,  
VERÓNICA PÉREZ BENTANCUR , RAFAEL PIÑEIRO RODRÍGUEZ ,  
FERNANDO ROSENBLATT FRONTMATTER**

# CURRENT CHALLENGES

- • Renewing participation
- • Operationalizing anti-patriarchal and anti-racist commitments
- • Expanding representation
- • Bringing new generations in
- • Updating organizational culture

# CLOSING

- The Frente Amplio works because it combines:
  - • pluralism
  - • unity of action
  - • grassroots democracy
  - • programmatic coherence
  - • unity in diversity

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FRENTE AMPLIO

A brief overview of this dense and profound document, essential for understanding our ideas and ideological foundations.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- **5. This document seeks to articulate the principles and values shared by all Frente Amplio members, and our common long-term vision regarding Uruguay in a globalized world, sustainable development, the relationships between the State, the market, and society, and democratic institutional life**
- **6. a) The document does *not* include definitions of principles or values that are not shared by all. From its origins, the Frente Amplio has been a political force in which individuals, groups, and sectors have held and may continue to hold their own ideological definitions. This diversity is an expression of our richness–unity in diversity, without exclusions.**

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- **b) It does not include diagnoses of the current reality (except where indispensable to support the arguments).**
- **c) It does not include programmatic aspects belonging to our Programmatic Foundations.**
- **d) It does not include strategic, political line, or organizational considerations. All of these belong to other documents of the Frente Amplio.**

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- **9. Freedom, equality, work, justice, solidarity, democracy, and peace** are the values upon which this political force has built its historical thinking and identity, and even justified its anti-oligarchic and anti-imperialist raison for being.
- From point 9 to 26, you will find more detailed information on each of these points.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- 31. In this regard, the Frente Amplio defined in 1984 its orientation toward building an authentic democracy capable of serving the entire Uruguayan society—one supported by **popular initiative and participation**, which strengthen institutional forms and mechanisms; one that promotes **permanent citizen oversight** of major national decisions, expanding the use of instruments such as plebiscites, referenda, and popular initiatives, and strengthening other mechanisms of direct democracy; and one that **defends a political system based on party plurality**, ensuring that the popular will can access power structures expressed in the State, and promoting electoral legislation that guarantees such access, eliminating all factors that have traditionally hindered or distorted it.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- 58. Our struggle for **peace and international security** always requires condemning unilateral or multilateral interventions that deviate from building a collective security system to which all are responsible. Global environmental problems cannot be solved through agreements among only the major world actors. Fairer global trade rules cannot be imposed by a small group of powerful nations. Contribution must be made to the long, laborious, and legitimate path of multilateral negotiation in all regional and international organizations to which Uruguay belongs.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- 63. Prioritizing the region must be framed within the strategic importance of **promoting South-South relations**—not only economic and commercial, but also political. Uruguay's foreign policy must prioritize complex and diverse relations with Mercosur partners; take on the challenge of articulating overlapping integration processes in the continent; confront difficulties in fulfilling Mercosur agreements; and sustain the aspiration for our countries to develop an effective and active external agenda as a bloc, especially with Southern nations. This perspective must aim to deepen Latin American integration, still fragile and jeopardized by dominant international interests.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- 75. We conceive **productive development** as a process of transformation, specialization, and diversification of productive structures—incorporating research, scientific and technological knowledge; generating decent work; protecting the environment; and improving quality of life. **The network of public institutions plays a strategic role in this process.**
- 78. Our concept of economic and social development promotes **sustainability** in ecological, social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions. Environmental protection requires us to defend life in all its forms and to seek ways of improving population well-being in harmony with our surroundings.

# SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FREnte AMPLIO

- 104. Our vision of **society**, which includes the various actors involved in economic, social, and cultural life, is that these actors must participate and engage in building a **new culture –one that opposes dominant individualism and consumerism**. We value the construction of shared public happiness by diverse actors, beyond the particular interests that shape their participation in society. The demands and proposed solutions to societal problems must emphasize managing community affairs, encouraging social influence, and ensuring accountability.