

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS GANHRI

## STATUTE

[version adopted at the General Assembly on 5 March 2019]

### PREAMBLE

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), formerly known as International Coordinating Committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC), began its activities in 1993, when at their first international conference held in Tunis, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) established the ICC with the aim to coordinate the activities of the NHRIs at the global level.

The decision to replace the name “International Coordinating Committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights” (ICC) with the new name “Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions” (GANHRI) was adopted by the General Meeting on 22 March 2016.

GANHRI promotes the role of NHRIs worldwide, provides a forum for its members to interact and exchange, and facilitates their engagement with international organizations.

GANHRI is constituted as a non-profit organization under Swiss law.

GANHRI created by this Statute gives independent corporate personality to the loose arrangement of NHRIs hitherto existing under the former Rules of Procedure.

The Statute, first adopted on 21 October 2008 in Nairobi, has gone through a series of revisions in the past years and it was amended at previous General Meetings in Geneva on 24 March 2009, on 19 May 2011, on 20 March 2012, on 7 May 2013, on 22 March 2016, on 7 March 2017 and lastly on 22 February 2018.

### SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

#### **Article 1**

##### ***In this Statute***

**Days** means calendar days, not working days;

**GANHRI** means the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions referred to in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 and the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, which is now given independent corporate personality by this Statute;

**GANHRI Bureau** means the committee of management established under Article 43 of this Statute;

**GANHRI Chairperson** means the individual elected as Chairperson under Articles 34 and 45;

**GANHRI Head Office** means the principal office of GANHRI;

**General Observations** means the standards developed by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation pursuant to section 2.2 of its Rules of Procedure;

**GANHRI Members** mean the voting members and non-voting members;

**GANHRI Secretariat** means the relevant unit in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that is designated responsibility for National Human Rights Institutions;

**GANHRI Secretary** means the individual elected as Secretary under Article 34 who acts as the Deputy to the Chairperson to carry out the role and functions of the Chairperson in her or his absence, including the functions referred to in Article 49;

**GANHRI staff** means personnel employed by GANHRI;

**NHRI** means a National Human Rights Institution, which is an independent national institution established by a Member or Observer State of the United Nations with a constitutional or legislative mandate to promote and protect human rights, and which is, or intends to be, accredited by GANHRI in line with the Paris Principles;

**Observer** means an institution or person granted permission to participate in GANHRI meetings or other open meetings or workshops without voting rights and without the right to speak unless invited to do so by the Chairperson of the meeting or workshop;

**OHCHR** means the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

**Paris Principles** means the Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1992/54 of 3 March 1992 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993;

**Regional Network** means the body established by NHRIs in each of the regional groupings of Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe, namely:

- Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI);
- Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas (RINDHCA);
- Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institution (APF); and
- European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI);

**SCA** means the Subcommittee of GANHRI responsible for making recommendations on accreditation under the auspices of OHCHR, referred to in United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74, and which is formally established by the Statute as a sub-committee of the GANHRI Bureau;

**SCA Rules of Procedure** means the “Rules of Procedure for the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation” adopted by the SCA and approved by GANHRI Bureau pursuant to Article 11.2 of the Statute;

**Voting Member** means an NHRI which is a member of GANHRI and is accredited with an ‘A’ status; and **Non-voting Member** means an NHRI which is a member of GANHRI and is accredited with ‘B’ status;

**‘Writing’ or ‘Written’** includes any hand-written, typed or printed communication including telex, cable, electronic mail and facsimile transmissions.

## SECTION 2: NAME, LOGO AND REGISTERED OFFICE

### Art 2

#### ***Name and legal status***

1. A non-profit association is hereby created by the NHRIs subscribing to this present Statute, according to Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code as an international association possessing legal personality independent of its members.
2. The name of the association is the **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions**, formerly known as the Association International Coordinating Committee of

National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in this Statute referred to as **GANHRI**.

3. The duration of GANHRI is unlimited.

### **Article 3**

#### **Logo**

The official logo of GANHRI, in each of the working languages, is the following images:



### **Article 4**

#### **Registered office**

The registered office of GANHRI is in Geneva, Switzerland and located there (Head Office).

## **SECTION 3: PURPOSE**

### **Article 5**

#### **Objective**

GANHRI is the global association of NHRIs which promotes and strengthens NHRIs to operate in line with the Paris Principles and provides leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights.

### **Article 6**

#### **Collaboration with OHCHR**

General Meetings of GANHRI, meetings of the GANHRI Bureau and of the SCA, as well as International Conferences of GANHRI shall be held under the auspices of, and in cooperation with, OHCHR.

### **Article 7**

#### **Functions and Principles**

1. The **functions** of GANHRI are:
  - a) To coordinate at an international level the activities of NHRIs established in conformity with the Paris Principles, including such activities as:
    - i) Interaction and cooperation with the United Nations, including the OHCHR, the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, United Nations human rights treaty bodies, as well as other international organisations;
    - ii) Collaboration and coordination amongst NHRIs and the Regional Networks;

- iii) Communication amongst members, and with stakeholders including, where appropriate, the general public;
  - iv) Development of knowledge;
  - v) Management of knowledge;
  - vi) Development of guidelines, policies, statements;
  - vii) Implementation of initiatives;
  - viii) Organisation of conferences.
- b) To promote the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs in conformity with the Paris Principles, including such activities as:
- i) Accreditation of new members;
  - ii) Periodic renewal of accreditation;
  - iii) Special review of accreditation;
  - iv) Assistance to NHRIs under threat;
  - v) Encouraging the provision of technical assistance;
  - vi) Fostering and promoting education and training opportunities to develop and reinforce the capacities of NHRIs.
- c) To undertake such other functions as are referred to it by its voting members.
2. In fulfilling these functions, GANHRI will work in ways that emphasize the following **principles**:
- a) Fair, transparent and credible accreditation processes;
  - b) Timely information and guidance to NHRIs on engagement with the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, and United Nations human rights treaty bodies, as well as other UN bodies, mechanisms and processes in the area of human rights;
  - c) The dissemination of information and directives concerning the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and United Nations human rights treaty bodies to NHRIs;
  - d) Mandated representation of NHRIs;
  - e) Strong relationships with the OHCHR and the Regional Networks that reflect the complementarity of roles;
  - f) Flexibility, transparency and active participation in all processes;
  - g) Inclusive decision-making processes based on consensus to the greatest extent possible;
  - h) The maintenance of its independence and financial autonomy.

#### **Article 8**

##### ***International Conference***

GANHRI may convene a triennial International Conference in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of International Conferences of NHRIs.

#### **SECTION 4: LIAISON WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND NGOS**

#### **Article 9**

GANHRI may liaise with international organizations, other human rights institutions including the International Ombudsman Institute, and non-governmental organizations. The GANHRI Bureau may decide to grant such organizations observer status at any meetings or workshops of GANHRI or the GANHRI Bureau.

#### **SECTION 5: PARIS PRINCIPLES ACCREDITATION**

## **Article 10**

### **Application for Accreditation**

[**Note:** Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, VII Rules of Procedure, rule 7(b), participation of NHRIs in the work of the Human Rights Council is based on arrangement and practices agreed upon by the Human Rights Commission including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005. Resolution 2005/74, paragraph 11(a), permitted NHRIs that are accredited by the SCA under the auspices of OHCHR to exercise participation rights in the Human Rights Commission and subsidiary bodies of the Commission.]

Any NHRI seeking accreditation under the Paris Principles shall apply to the GANHRI Chairperson. Through the GANHRI Secretariat, the NHRI shall supply the following in support of its application:

- a copy of the legislation or other instrument by which it is established and empowered in its official or published format;
- an outline of its organizational structure including staff complement and annual budget;
- a copy of its most recent annual report or equivalent document in its official or published format;
- a detailed statement showing how it complies with the Paris Principles as well as any respects in which it does not so comply and any proposals to ensure compliance. The GANHRI Bureau may determine the form in which this statement is to be provided.

The application shall be decided pursuant to Articles 11 and 12 of this Statute.

## **Article 11.1**

### **Decisions**

All applications for accreditation under the Paris Principles, shall be decided under the auspices of, and in cooperation with OHCHR, by the GANHRI Bureau after considering a report from the SCA on the basis of written evidence submitted.

## **Article 11.2**

In coming to a decision, the GANHRI Bureau and the SCA shall adopt processes that facilitate dialogue and exchange of information between them and the applicant NHRI as deemed necessary to come to a fair and just decision.

## **Article 12.1**

### **Accreditation recommendation and challenge**

Where the SCA comes to an accreditation recommendation, it shall be deemed accepted by the GANHRI Bureau unless it is successfully challenged by the applicant NHRI in accordance with the following process:

- (i) The recommendation of the SCA shall, as soon as practicable, be forwarded to the applicant NHRI;
- (ii) The applicant NHRI can challenge a recommendation of the SCA by submitting a letter addressed to the GANHRI Chairperson and copied to the GANHRI Secretariat within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of communication of the recommendation;
- (iii) At the end of this twenty-eight (28) day period the GANHRI Secretariat will forward to the GANHRI Bureau members, as soon as practicable, the recommendations of the SCA. If the applicant NHRI has not challenged the recommendation, it shall be deemed accepted by the GANHRI Bureau;
- (iv) If an applicant NHRI submits a challenge within these twenty-eight (28) days, the GANHRI Secretariat will forward to the GANHRI Bureau members, as soon as practicable, all

- relevant material related to the challenge. The GANHRI Bureau members will be provided with twenty (20) days to determine whether or not support this challenge;
- (v) Any member of the GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify the Chair of the SCA and the GANHRI Secretariat of this support. If the challenge does not receive the support of at least one (1) GANHRI Bureau member within twenty (20) days, the recommendation of the SCA will be deemed accepted by the GANHRI Bureau;
  - (vi) If at least one (1) member of the GANHRI Bureau supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI within these twenty (20) days, the GANHRI Secretariat will notify members of the GANHRI Bureau as soon as practicable of this support and will provide any additional relevant information;
  - (vii) Once provided with this notification and any additional relevant material, any member of the GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretariat of this support. If the challenge does not receive the support of at least four (4) GANHRI Bureau members in total coming from not less than two (2) regions within the second twenty (20) day period, the recommendation of the SCA will be deemed accepted by the GANHRI Bureau;
  - (viii) If the challenge receives the support of at least four (4) GANHRI Bureau members in total coming from not less than two (2) regions, the recommendation of the SCA shall be referred to the following GANHRI Bureau meeting for a decision.

#### **Article 12.2**

For the purposes of Article 12.1, the counting of days will commence on the day following the dispatch of a communication from the GANHRI Secretariat and will conclude at midnight, Central European Time (Geneva, Switzerland), on the final day.

#### **Article 12.3**

A member of the GANHRI Bureau cannot initiate a challenge to a recommendation of the SCA that has not been challenged by the concerned applicant NHRI.

#### **Article 12.4**

Each member of the GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of an applicant NHRI must attest to its support by written communication to the SCA Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretariat within the time periods specified in Article 12.1.

#### **Article 12.5**

No GANHRI Bureau member may support a challenge on behalf of another member or a group of members.

#### **Article 12.6**

An applicant NHRI who is also a member of the GANHRI Bureau cannot support a challenge made on its own behalf.

#### **Article 12.7**

An applicant NHRI whose challenge will be heard by the GANHRI Bureau pursuant to Article 12.1 (viii), and who is also a member of the GANHRI Bureau, is excluded from participating in the Bureau meeting in which the challenge is heard and decided.

#### **Article 12.8**

An alternate member shall be appointed by the Regional Networks to participate in the GANHRI Bureau, replacing a member whose challenge will be heard by the GANHRI Bureau pursuant to Articles 12.1 (viii) and 12.7. The replacement by the alternate member is for the entire meeting.

#### **Article 13.1**

##### ***Application for re-accreditation following declination***

Should the GANHRI Bureau decide to decline an application for re-accreditation of any NHRI by reason of its failure to comply with the Paris Principles, the GANHRI Bureau or its delegate may consult further with that NHRI concerning measures to address its compliance issues.

#### **Article 13.2**

Any NHRI whose application for accreditation or re-accreditation has been declined may reapply for accreditation, according to the guidelines under Article 10, at any time. Such an application may be considered at the next meeting of the SCA.

#### **Article 14.1**

##### ***Deferral***

The SCA may decide to defer an application rather than make a decision on status. The deferral decision(s) shall be limited to a period of two (2) years, except in exceptional circumstances that may justify a longer period. In any event, the total duration of the deferral shall not exceed the periodic cycle set out in Article 15.

#### **Article 14.2**

A decision of the SCA to defer an application for accreditation or re-accreditation is not a recommendation to the GANHRI Bureau and cannot be challenged under the provisions of Article 12.

#### **Article 15**

##### ***Periodic re-accreditation***

All NHRIs that hold 'A' status are subject to re-accreditation on a five year cyclical basis. Articles 10, 11 and 12 apply to all NHRIs undergoing re-accreditation. In particular, reference to an application for accreditation means both the initial application and the application for re-accreditation.

#### **Article 16.1**

##### ***Special Review***

Where the circumstances of any NHRI change in any way that may affect its continued compliance with the Paris Principles, that NHRI shall notify the GANHRI Chairperson of those changes and the GANHRI Chairperson shall place the matter before the SCA for review of that NHRI's accreditation status.

#### **Article 16.2**

##### ***Review of accreditation status***

Where, in the opinion of the GANHRI Chairperson or of any member of the SCA, it appears that the circumstances of any NHRI that has been accredited with 'A' status may have changed in a way that affects its compliance with the Paris Principles, the GANHRI Chairperson or the SCA may initiate a review of that NHRI's accreditation status.

#### **Article 16.3**

A decision of the SCA to initiate a Special Review is not a recommendation to the GANHRI Bureau and cannot be challenged under the provisions of Article 12.

**Article 16.4**

Any review of the accreditation classification of an NHRI must be finalized within eighteen (18) months.

**Article 17*****Powers and responsibilities***

On any review the GANHRI Chairperson and the SCA shall have all the powers and responsibilities as in an application under Article 10.

**Article 18.1*****Alteration of accreditation classification***

Any decision that would serve to remove accredited 'A' status from an applicant can only be taken after the applicant is informed of this intention and is given the opportunity to provide, in writing, within one (1) year of receipt of such notice, the written evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles.

**Article 18.2*****Authority to immediately suspend accreditation in exceptional circumstances***

Where, in the opinion of the GANHRI Chairperson, an exceptional circumstance exists necessitating the urgent suspension of the accreditation status of an 'A' status NHRI, the GANHRI Bureau may decide to immediately suspend the accreditation classification of that NHRI and request the SCA to initiate a special review, pursuant to Article 16.2.

**Article 18.3*****Process for immediate suspension of accreditation in exceptional circumstances***

The decision of the GANHRI Bureau in such exceptional circumstance is final and is subject to the following process:

- (i) The GANHRI Chairperson, through the GANHRI Secretariat, will immediately notify the GANHRI Bureau and the NHRI in question of the alleged existence of an exceptional circumstance pursuant to Article 18.2 and the recommendation to suspend the accreditation classification of that NHRI;
- (ii) The NHRI can challenge the recommendation by submitting a letter addressed to the GANHRI Chairperson, and copied to the GANHRI Secretariat, within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of communication of the recommendation;
- (iii) Any member of the GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretariat. If the challenge does not receive the support of at least one (1) GANHRI Bureau member within twenty (20) days, the recommendation to suspend will be deemed accepted by the GANHRI Bureau;
- (iv) If at least one (1) member of the GANHRI Bureau supports the challenge of the NHRI within these twenty (20) days, the GANHRI Secretariat will notify all GANHRI Bureau members as soon as practicable of this support and will provide any additional relevant material;
- (v) Once provided with this notification and any additional relevant material, any other member of the GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretariat of this support.
- (vi) If at least two (2) GANHRI Bureau members in total coming from not less than two (2) regions support the challenge pursuant to Article 18.3 (iv) and (v) of the NHRI, the recommendation shall be referred to the following GANHRI Bureau meeting for decision.

Otherwise, the recommendation to suspend the accreditation classification is deemed approved by the GANHRI Bureau.

#### **Article 18.4**

For the purposes of Articles 18.2 and 18.3, an “exceptional circumstance” refers to a sudden and dramatic change in the internal political order of a state such as:

- a break in the constitutional or democratic order;
- a declared state of emergency; or
- gross violations of human rights;

and this is accompanied by any of the following:

- there is a change in the NHRI enabling legislation or other applicable law that is contrary to the Paris Principles;
- there is a change in the composition of the NHRI that is not undertaken in accordance with the established selection and / or appointment process; or
- the NHRI acts in a way that seriously compromises its compliance with the Paris Principles.

#### **Article 19**

##### ***Suspension for failure to re-apply***

An accreditation classification held by an NHRI may be suspended if the NHRI fails to submit an application for re-accreditation or fails to do so within the prescribed time without justification.

#### **Article 20**

##### ***Lapse of accreditation status***

An accreditation classification may lapse if an NHRI fails to submit an application for re-accreditation within one (1) year of being suspended for failure to reapply.

#### **Article 21**

##### ***Duration of suspension***

NHRIs whose accreditation has been suspended remain suspended until the body determining their compliance with the Paris Principles under this Statute comes to a determination of their accreditation status or until their accreditation lapses.

#### **Article 22**

##### ***Re-application after lapse of accreditation status***

NHRIs whose accreditation status has lapsed or been revoked may regain accreditation only by re-applying for accreditation as provided for in Article 10 of this Statute.

#### **Article 23**

##### ***Loss of privileges associated with accreditation***

In the event that accreditation lapses or is revoked or suspended, all rights and privileges conferred on that NHRI through accreditation immediately cease. In the event that an NHRI is under review, it shall retain the accreditation status it has been granted until such time as the body determining membership comes to a decision as to its compliance with the Paris Principles or its membership lapses.

## **SECTION 6: MEMBERS**

#### **Article 24.1**

***Eligibility and voting rights***

Only NHRIs which comply fully with the Paris Principles, being those which have been accredited with 'A' status in accordance with the procedure established under this Statute, shall be eligible to be voting members of GANHRI.

**Article 24.2**

NHRIs that are partially compliant with the Paris Principles, being those which have been accredited with a 'B' status in accordance with the procedure established under this Statute, shall be eligible to become a non-voting member.

**Article 25*****Applications for membership***

Any NHRIs wishing to become a member of GANHRI shall apply in writing to the GANHRI Chairperson giving:

- in the case of an application for voting membership, particulars of the date on which it was accredited with A status; and,
- in the case of an application for non-voting membership, particulars of the date on which it was accredited with B status.

In either case, the applicant must indicate their agreement to be bound by this Statute as amended from time to time (including as to the payment of applicable annual membership subscription). The application shall be considered and decided by the GANHRI Bureau.

**Article 26*****Cessation of membership***

An NHRI shall cease to be a member of GANHRI upon written notice by that NHRI of resignation given to the GANHRI Chairperson, but without prejudice to the obligation of the NHRI to discharge outstanding fiscal obligations due to GANHRI at the dates of resignation.

**Article 27*****Revocation of membership***

Membership may be revoked by resolution of the GANHRI Bureau if the body determining accreditation status under this Statute determines that a member no longer meets the membership eligibility requirements in Article 24.

**Article 28*****Cancellation of membership***

Membership may be cancelled by resolution of the GANHRI Bureau if that member has failed for six (6) months or more to pay an annual subscription that is due and owing.

**Article 29.1*****Re-admission to membership***

An NHRI whose membership has been revoked, or has been cancelled for non-payment of an annual subscription, may regain membership by re-applying for membership under Article 25 of this Statute.

**Article 29.2**

Where membership has been cancelled for non-payment of a subscription, re-admission to membership shall be subject to payment of the outstanding subscription or so much thereof as the GANHRI Bureau shall determine.

**Article 30*****Independence of members***

Notwithstanding anything in this Statute, the independence, authority and national status of members, and their powers, duties and functions under their own legislative mandates, and their participation in the different international fora on human rights shall in no way be affected by the creation of GANHRI or its functioning.

**SECTION 7: REGIONAL NETWORKS OF MEMBERS****Article 31.1**

For the purpose of ensuring a fair balance of regional representation on GANHRI the following regions are determined and the following Regional Networks are recognized as representing the regions:

- Africa: Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)
- The Americas: Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas (RINDHCA)
- Asia-Pacific: Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institution (APF)
- Europe: European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

**Article 31.2**

The members within any Regional Network may establish such sub-regional groupings as they wish.

**Article 31.3**

The members of Regional Networks may establish their own procedures concerning meetings and activities.

**Article 31.4**

Each Regional Network is to appoint four (4) members and one (1) alternate member accredited with an 'A' status to represent the Regional Network on the GANHRI Bureau. This includes the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary as elected under Article 34.

**SECTION 8: GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBERS****Article 32**

The General Assembly is composed by GANHRI members and constitutes the supreme authority of the association.

**Article 33*****Duties***

The duties of the General Assembly include control of the activities of GANHRI, review and control of the activities of the GANHRI Bureau, ratification of the program of GANHRI activities, the amendment of this Statute, consideration of funding issues and the fixing of annual membership subscriptions to be paid by members accredited with "A" status, provided however the decision of

the GANHRI Bureau on accreditation determinations shall not be subject to review or control by the General Assembly.

**Article 34.1**

***Ratification of GANHRI Bureau members***

The General Assembly ratifies the appointment of the members of the GANHRI Bureau made pursuant to Article 31.4. The GANHRI Bureau members shall be represented in the GANHRI Bureau by their respective head of the NHRI or, in exceptional cases, by a member of the senior leadership of the NHRI upon delegation by the head of the NHRI.

**Article 34.2**

***Election of the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary***

The General Assembly elects two individuals, heads of 'A' status NHRIs, proposed by the relevant Regional Network pursuant to the rotation implemented under Article 45 as the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary.

**Article 35**

***Meetings***

The General Assembly gathers at least once a year, preferably in conjunction with a session of the Human Rights Council, upon written notice given by the GANHRI Bureau to the members at least six (6) weeks in advance and at such other times required according to the law including when requested by one fifth (1/5) or more of the voting members. Such a request by voting members shall be made at least six (6) weeks in advance and in writing to the GANHRI Chairperson.

**Article 36**

***Extraordinary General Assembly***

Where circumstances require an urgent decision by the General Assembly, which cannot wait for a regular convocation of a General Assembly according to Article 35, the GANHRI Chairperson, with the consent of the GANHRI Bureau, can call an Extraordinary General Assembly.

The Extraordinary General Assembly may not take place earlier than twenty (24) hours after the convocation of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Decisions of the Extraordinary General Assembly are passed by the majority of voting members present in person or via telecommunications systems, or duly represented (abstentions do not count).

**Article 37**

***Agenda***

The draft agenda of a meeting shall be submitted to the members with the written notice of meeting or, for ordinary General Assemblies, at least six (6) weeks before the meeting.

**SECTION 9: RIGHT TO VOTE AND DECISIONS**

**Article 38**

***Voting, non-voting members and observers***

At General Assemblies only voting members shall be entitled to vote. Non-voting members have the right to participate and speak in General Assemblies. The GANHRI Chairperson, after consultation with the GANHRI Bureau, may invite NHRIs who are not members of GANHRI and any other person or institution to participate as an observer in the General Assemblies.

#### **Article 39**

##### ***Eligibility in case of more than one NHRI in a state***

At General Assemblies only one (1) NHRI per Member State of the United Nations shall be eligible to be a voting member. Where more than one (1) NHRI in a State qualifies for membership the NHRIs of that State shall have one (1) speaking right, one (1) voting right, and if elected, one (1) GANHRI Bureau member or alternate member. The choice of an NHRI to represent the NHRIs of a particular State shall be for the relevant NHRIs to determine.

#### **Article 40**

##### ***Mode of decisions***

Where possible, decisions are made by consensus. Otherwise, decisions of the General Assembly are passed by the majority of voting members present in person (abstentions do not count). The General Assembly will only deal with matters that are summarized in the agenda.

#### **Article 41**

##### ***Quorum***

- (i) A quorum of at least one half (1/2) of the total number of voting members is necessary to hold a General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly. In Extraordinary General Assemblies members may be duly represented or participate via telecommunication systems.
- (ii) A quorum of at least one half (1/2) of the voting member present is necessary for the General Assembly to take decisions (abstentions do not count).

#### **Article 42**

##### ***Working languages***

Arabic, English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of GANHRI. As a result, documents from GANHRI should be available in these languages.

## **SECTION 10: GANHRI BUREAU**

#### **Article 43**

##### ***Composition***

GANHRI is managed by a committee entitled GANHRI Bureau which shall comprise sixteen (16) individuals, including the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary, appointed and elected pursuant to Articles 31.4 and 34.

#### **Article 44.1**

##### ***Replacement***

In the event that a GANHRI Bureau member ceases to hold an 'A' status accreditation, or the member's appointment under Article 34.1 is withdrawn by the Regional Network, the NHRI shall cease to be a member of the GANHRI Bureau and the Regional Network shall thereupon appoint another NHRI who shall act as a casual member of GANHRI Bureau until ratification at the next General Assembly. This provision also applies to alternate members appointed pursuant to Article 31.4.

## **Article 44.2**

In the event that the NHRI of the GANHRI Chairperson or the GANHRI Secretary ceases to hold an 'A' status accreditation, or that the NHRI is under notice of intention to downgrade its status pursuant to Art. 18.1, or that the GANHRI Chairperson or the GANHRI Secretary ceases to hold his/her domestic mandate, the term of office of the GANHRI Chairperson or the GANHRI Secretary shall end immediately.

The relevant Regional Network under Article 45 shall appoint a new candidate within ninety (90) days after the notice of resignation who shall act as a casual GANHRI Chairperson or GANHRI Secretary until the next General Assembly.

## **Article 45**

### ***Rotation***

The GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary shall be elected on a geographically rotational basis by the General Assembly for a non-renewable term of three (3) years. The order of rotation shall be: the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Europe.

## **Article 46**

### ***Powers of the GANHRI Bureau***

1. The GANHRI Bureau is empowered to act generally in the name of GANHRI and to carry out the purpose and functions of GANHRI.
2. Without limiting the generality of the powers of management the GANHRI Bureau is empowered to:
  - a) decide applications for accreditation after considering a recommendation from the SCA;
  - b) decide applications for membership of GANHRI;
  - c) summon General Assemblies of GANHRI;
  - d) collaborate and work with UN bodies, mechanisms and processes, as well as OHCHR and UNDP, in particular work with OHCHR in connection with the GANHRI accreditation process, the General Assemblies of GANHRI, meetings of the GANHRI Bureau and international conferences of NHRIs. In addition, OHCHR will facilitate and coordinate the participation of NHRIs in the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, and the United Nations human rights treaty bodies;
  - e) use and accept the services of OHCHR as the Secretariat for GANHRI, the GANHRI Bureau and its SCA;
  - f) appoint a Finance Committee from members of GANHRI, consisting of one member nominated from each Regional Network for a total of four members, which will act as treasurer of GANHRI;
  - g) acquire, lease, dispose of or otherwise deal in property of any kind;
  - h) open bank accounts, appoint signatories thereto and define the authority of the signatories;
  - i) spend money and do all things it considers desirable to promote the purposes of GANHRI;
  - j) delegate any function to a nominated person, standing committee or subcommittee of persons or members;
  - k) co-ordinate and arrange conferences, meetings, standing committees and subcommittees, and other activities;
  - l) engage, dismiss or suspend employees, agents and contractors;
  - m) enter into contracts;
  - n) engage professional assistance for the preparation of annual and other financial statements, to obtain legal advice, and for any other purpose;
  - o) prepare and disseminate information notes, bulletins and papers of any kind to members, and to promote generally information about human rights issues and activities of the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, the United Nations human rights treaty bodies,

- other relevant UN bodies, mechanisms and processes, and of GANHRI in which members could have an interest;
- p) receive financial grants and donations, and gifts of any kind;
- q) adopt, amend or revoke rules of procedure in relation to the working methods of the GANHRI Bureau and GANHRI sub-committees to regulate or clarify any matter contemplated by this Statute. Every decision to adopt, amend or revoke a rule shall as soon as practicable be circulated to all members of GANHRI.
3. The powers under sub-paragraphs c), g), h), i), l), m), n), o), p) are delegated to the GANHRI Chairperson, who shall make use of them in accordance with the general decisions of the GANHRI Bureau. In matters with considerable financial implications for GANHRI, the GANHRI Chairperson shall consult the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The GANHRI Chairperson may authorize GANHRI staff members to make payments in accordance with internal financial regulations to be established by the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Finance Committee.

#### **Article 47**

##### ***Membership Subscription***

The GANHRI Bureau shall as and when it considers appropriate recommend to the General Assembly that an annual membership subscription shall be set by the General Assembly. Once set the GANHRI Bureau will ensure procedures are in place to collect membership subscriptions. The GANHRI Bureau in its discretion may waive, in whole or in part, the annual subscription for a member if satisfied that the member is unable to pay the full amount due.

#### **Article 48**

##### ***Meetings of the GANHRI Bureau***

A meeting of the GANHRI Bureau shall be held in conjunction with each General Assembly of GANHRI and at least two (2) times each year. Otherwise, the GANHRI Bureau shall meet at such times and places as it or the GANHRI Chairperson shall decide. Written notice summoning a meeting shall be given by the GANHRI Chairperson at least four (4) weeks in advance unless the GANHRI Bureau agrees to a shorter period for that meeting. The draft agenda of the meeting shall be submitted to the members with the written notice of meeting.

#### **Article 49**

##### ***The GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary***

The GANHRI Chairperson, or in his or her absence the GANHRI Secretary, shall direct the work of the General Assemblies and the GANHRI Bureau in accordance with the developed practices and authorities and as directed from time to time by the General Assembly.

In particular, the GANHRI Chairperson, or in his or her absence the GANHRI Secretary, or a representative from an 'A' status NHRI delegated by the GANHRI Chairperson may speak at the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, United Nations treaty bodies and, when invited, at other international organisations:

- on behalf of GANHRI on topics authorised by the General Assembly or the GANHRI Bureau;
- on behalf of individual NHRIs when authorised by them;
- on thematic human rights issues to promote policy decided by a General Assembly, a triennial conference or by the GANHRI Bureau; and
- generally to advance the objects of GANHRI.

#### **Article 50.1**

**Conduct of GANHRI Bureau business**

1. Arabic, English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the GANHRI Bureau. As a result, documents from GANHRI should be available in these languages.
2. GANHRI paid staff and employees attend the GANHRI Bureau meetings, with only a consultative role and with no right to vote.

**Article 50.2**

A quorum of at least one half (1/2) of the total number of GANHRI Bureau members is necessary to take decisions.

**Article 50.3**

A draft agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the GANHRI Chairperson in consultation with the GANHRI Bureau members. Agenda items may be added at the meeting if approved by a majority of the members present.

**Article 50.4**

Members of the GANHRI Bureau may be accompanied at meetings by advisers, including, by representatives from the relevant Regional Network. Such persons attend in the capacity of advisers to their members and observers to the meeting, and may participate in discussions at the call and invitation of the GANHRI Chairperson.

**Article 50.5**

Each member of the GANHRI Bureau shall have one (1) vote. Where possible, decisions of the GANHRI Bureau shall be reached by consensus. When consensus is not possible, decisions shall be by a majority of members present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes, the proposal being voted on shall be regarded as defeated.

**Article 50.6**

The GANHRI Bureau may invite NHRIs whether or not members of GANHRI and any other person or institution to participate in a GANHRI Bureau meeting as an observer.

**Article 50.7**

Notwithstanding the forgoing provisions of Article 50, the GANHRI Bureau may decide any matter in writing without the need to formally summon a meeting provided that a majority of members of the GANHRI Bureau concur with the decision.

**Article 50.8**

The GANHRI Bureau, through the GANHRI Chairperson or in her or his absence through the GANHRI Secretary, shall present to the General Assemblies reports on activities carried out by GANHRI, the GANHRI Bureau and its officers since the preceding General Assembly.

**Article 50.9**

The GANHRI Bureau members work on a voluntary basis and thus do not receive any honoraria, remuneration or compensation. In exceptional circumstances they may receive reimbursement for travel costs or actual expenses.

**Article 51**

Should any question concerning the procedure of the GANHRI Bureau arise which is not provided for by this Statute, the GANHRI Bureau may adopt such procedure as it thinks fit.

## **SECTION 11: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Article 52**

#### ***Accounting Year***

The financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.

## **SECTION 12: ASSETS OF GANHRI**

### **Article 53**

#### ***Assets***

The assets of GANHRI comprise and include:

- grants obtained from international and national public and semi-public organizations;
- donations;
- subscriptions;
- funds entrusted to it by other organizations, associations, businesses or institutions; and
- income and property of any kind received from whatever source.

### **Article 54**

#### ***Use of assets***

The assets of GANHRI must be applied solely towards promoting the purposes of GANHRI as set out in Section 3 in line with the Principles as set out in Article 7.

## **SECTION 13: DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION**

### **Article 55**

#### ***Dissolution***

GANHRI may be dissolved by resolution of GANHRI at a General Assembly. A General Assembly called for this purpose shall be convened specially. At least one half (1/2) of the voting members must be present. If this proportion is not present the General Assembly must be reconvened after an interval of at least two (2) weeks. It can then validly deliberate with whatever numbers of voting members are present. In any case the dissolution can only be approved by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the voting members present (abstentions do not count).

### **Article 56**

#### ***Liquidation***

The winding up of GANHRI and the liquidation of its assets shall be carried out by one (1) or more liquidators appointed by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly must authorize the liquidator or liquidators to transfer the net assets to a non-profit organization pursuing public interest goals similar to those of GANHRI and benefiting from tax exemption. Under no circumstances should the assets be returned to the members. Nor should they use a part or a total of assets for their own benefit.

## **SECTION 14: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Article 57**

#### ***Adoption, amendment or revocation***

The General Assembly may adopt, amend or revoke rules of procedure, without prejudice to article 46 q), in relation to the working methods of GANHRI, including General Assemblies and international conferences, to regulate or clarify any matter contemplated by this Statute.

#### **SECTION 15: AMENDMENT OF STATUTE**

##### **Article 58**

This Statute may be amended only by a General Assembly of GANHRI. Where possible, decisions are made by consensus. Otherwise, a decision to amend this Statute must be taken by a qualified majority of two thirds (2/3) of the voting members present (abstentions do not count).

#### **SECTION 16: GOVERNING LANGUAGE**

##### **Article 59**

The English version of this document is the original and shall prevail in case of any inconsistency with the versions in the other GANHRI working languages.

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Signed by:

**GANHRI Chairperson**

Prof. Dr Beate Rudolf