



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN GOOD GOVERNANCE NETWORK

Revision Draft

19.11.2016

Preamble and Mission

We, fellows of the African Good Governance Network (hereinafter AGGN), a network of Africans who formerly studied or are still studying in institutions of higher education in Germany, do hereby establish this constitution. Our mission remains the establishment of a sustainable network of potential African leaders and decision makers dedicated to promoting the ideals and principles of democracy and good governance in sub-Saharan Africa. Whereas, having set by-laws is imperative for certainty in the functioning of the network, we the fellows of the network have adopted this constitution as a supreme guide for the activities that the network desires to accomplish.

This constitution replaces the 2009 constitution.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND ESTABLISHMENT

Section 1: Names

1. The name of the organisation is *The African Good Governance Network (AGGN)*.
2. The network was founded in 2007, by the *German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*.
3. Members of the AGGN are referred to as *fellows*.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Appointment of members

1. The DAAD selection committee grants membership to the AGGN according to a selection process determined at its discretion.
2. Fellows who have been members of the network for less than twenty-four months shall be referred to as *Junior Fellows*.
3. Fellows who have been members of the network for twenty-four months or more shall be referred to as *Senior Fellows*.

Section 2: Rights and duties of fellows

1. At the discretion of the DAAD:
 - a. Fellows can receive financial assistance to attend conferences and training workshops.
 - b. Fellows may receive financial support for projects directed towards promoting the ideals of democracy and good governance.
 - c. Junior fellows residing in Germany are entitled to be invited to AGGN workshops.
 - d. Fellows may apply to the DAAD for funding of regional workshops and multiplier events.
2. Fellows in good standing may contest to occupy positions in the executive committee of the AGGN.
3. All fellows of the network shall have the following rights:
 - a. To attend relevant seminars and workshops organised by the AGGN
 - b. To vote in the annual general meeting.
 - c. To vote in the elections of the executive committee.
 - d. To submit motions for consideration at the annual general meeting.
 - e. To propose and discuss amendments to this constitution.
 - f. To organise their own workshops and multiplier events on a regional basis

Section 3: Duties

1. Fellows shall abide by the terms of this constitution
2. Fellows shall be committed to encouraging the highest ethical standards; conduct themselves with integrity, transparency, accountability and in a fair and equitable manner.
3. Fellows are encouraged to engage with the work of the AGGN, and to consider contributing their time and expertise to its overall development.
4. Fellows shall contribute to the furtherance of improved governance within and without AGGN.

Section 4: Termination of membership

1. Fellows may voluntarily terminate membership of the network by providing written notification of this decision to the DAAD.

ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES

In order to enhance the principles of good governance and foster the democratization process in the sub-Saharan African countries, this network shall pursue the following objectives:

1. Nurture the capacity of fellows as potential African leaders thereby enabling them to be active agents in the promotion and implementation of principles of good governance and democratization processes in their respective countries or regions;
2. Increase the consciousness of fellows, inter alia, in the political, economic and legal challenges of the region; and in issues of global politics, governance and sustainable development;
3. Promote the principles and practice of good governance.
4. Strengthen the cooperation between African countries and between African countries and Germany.

ARTICLE 4: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

1. *Meetings* may take place in person, by video conference/teleconference, or other means that the Secretary deems adequate to reasonably fulfil the business of the meeting.
2. The Executive Committee may opt to accept email/online voting as a substitute for, or as a complement to, votes conducted during specific meetings.
3. In particular, all or part of elections for Executive Committee positions may be conducted electronically if desired, with the procedure in (5) below modified accordingly.

Section 1: Executive committee meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times each year.
2. The quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) will be at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee, including either the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
3. Voting at ECMs shall be on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote, then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.
4. All Executive Committee members shall be given at least two weeks' (14 days) written notice of a meeting, except where such a meeting is deemed by the secretary to be an emergency meeting.
5. Fellows may participate in Executive Committee Meetings, at the discretion of the secretary.
6. Minutes of each ECM shall be communicated to all fellows, and made available to any interested parties in writing within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the meeting.
7. The Executive Committee may create and mandate sub-committees for particular tasks at an ECM. Details of such sub-committees, their mandates, and their duration shall be attached as annexures to this constitution once created.
8. The ECM shall be chaired by the Chairperson.

Section 2: Annual general meeting

1. The AGGN shall hold an annual general meeting (AGM) at intervals not longer than 15 months.
2. The date of the AGM will be decided by the executive committee.
3. Notice of the AGM will be given to all fellows at least 30 days ahead of the date that the meeting will commence.
4. Fellows may submit items for inclusion in the agenda of the AGM by sending them in writing to the Chairperson at least 14 days before the meeting is due to commence.
5. The business of the AGM shall include:
 - a. Receiving a report from the Chairperson of the AGGN's activities since the previous AGM.
 - b. Voting in a new Executive Committee, as outlined in 4.5
 - c. Any items submitted for inclusion in the agenda in terms of 4.2.4 above.
6. The AGM shall be chaired by the Chairperson.
7. The AGM should include at least two representatives of the Executive Committee, one of whom must be either the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Section 3: Elections

1. All administrative positions shall be available for contest at the AGM.
2. No position may be held for longer than two terms of that office.
3. The Secretary shall send out a call for candidates at the same time as announcing the date of an AGM.
4. During the AGM, the process of nominations and voting shall proceed as follows:
 - a. The election shall be overseen by a member not running in the election.
 - b. The Overseer will take nominations and secondments of candidates from those fellows present.
 - i. Candidates may nominate or second themselves, and/or nominate or second other candidates.
 - c. Where only one nominee exists, that nominee should receive a simple majority of votes from those fellows present and voting in order to be confirmed to the position.
 - i. A failure to receive a simple majority of votes from those fellows present and voting, for a position with only a single candidate, will result in that position remaining vacant, pending an email ballot to fill it at a later date.
 - d. Candidates shall be afforded the opportunity to give a short speech in support of their candidacy, prior to voting commencing.
 - e. All voting shall be conducted by means of a secret ballot, counted by the Overseer.
 - f. A simple majority of fellows present and voting shall be required to win an election, unless stated otherwise.

ARTICLE 5: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: General

1. The AGGN shall be administered by an Executive Committee of not less than three people.
2. The officers of the Executive Committee shall be:
 - a. The Chairperson
 - b. The Deputy Chairperson
 - c. The Secretary
 - d. The Deputy Secretary
 - e. Such other officers as deemed necessary by the existing Executive Committee, and whose positions are announced for contest at least 30 days before the AGM.

Section 2: The Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall have the following functions and duties:
 - a. Be an AGGN fellow for at least one year.
 - b. Be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the constitution.
 - c. Be responsible for overseeing the activities and obligations of the network and its committees and representatives.
 - d. To compile and deliver a report on the activities of the AGGN since the last AGM, at each AGM.
 - e. Preside over the AGM and ECMs.
 - f. Be a contact person for the DAAD, ABI, fellows, external partners and the general public

Section 3: The Deputy Chairperson

1. The Deputy Chairperson shall have the following functions and duties:
 - a. Assist the Chairperson in the fulfilment of their duties
 - b. To stand in for the Chairperson, where the Chairperson is not available to fulfil particular duties.
 - c. Coordinate the activities and reporting of such sub-committees as may be active during their term of office.

Section 4: The Secretary

1. The Secretary shall have the following functions and duties:
 - a. Maintain a current copy of the Constitution and any amendments or addenda thereto
 - b. Ensure that all meetings are minuted and that minutes are properly maintained.
 - c. Ensure that copies of all minutes are sent to all AGGN fellows, and DAAD's current representatives.
 - d. Maintain accurate and current contacts of all fellows.
 - e. Call meetings in accordance with Article 4, as required

Section 5: The Deputy Secretary

1. The Deputy Secretary shall have the following functions and duties:
 - a. Assist the Secretary in the fulfilment of their duties
 - b. To stand in for the Secretary, where the Secretary is not available to fulfil particular duties.

Section 6: Chapter Representatives

1. Chapter representatives shall be established as per Article 6, and are not positions filled through Executive Committee elections.
2. Chapter Representatives shall have the following functions and duties:
 - a. To represent their chapters in AGGN deliberations
 - b. To report to the rest of the Executive Committee on activities in their chapter
 - c. To report to their chapters regarding activities and decisions of the Executive Committee.

Section 7: Removal of Office Bearers

1. A member of the Executive Committee shall be removed for gross failure to execute the responsibilities of their office.
 - a. The Executive Committee may remove a member from their position through a two-thirds majority vote taken at an ECM or emergency meeting at which the majority of Executive Committee members are present, including the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and Secretary.
 - i. Where the individual considered for removal from office is the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or Secretary, their attendance will not be a requirement for quorum at the ECM as contemplated in 7.6.1.a above
 - b. The individual being considered for removal from office shall have the right to make representation at the ECM at which the decision on their removal shall be taken.
 - c. On removing a member from their position, the Executive Committee may appoint an interim office-bearer to fulfil the responsibilities of the position until such time as the next AGM or a by-election is held.

ARTICLE 6: REGIONAL CHAPTERS

1. There are five chapters:
 - a. West Africa
 - b. Central Africa
 - c. East Africa
 - d. Southern Africa
 - e. Germany
2. A chapter shall be entitled to determine one representative to the Executive Committee.
3. The duties of the chapter representative are those specified in 7.6 above

ARTICLE 7: WORKING GROUPS

- 1. Fellow may form ad hoc working groups on good governance related projects or on network related tasks.
- 2. The working groups should regularly inform the executive committee about the activities and results of the working group.

ARTICLE 8: ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

- 1. Proposals for amendments to this constitution or dissolution must be submitted to the Secretary in writing.
 - a. The secretary in conjunction with all other officers shall then include the amendments in the next Annual General Meeting, where such proposals have been received in terms of 4.2.4 above.
 - b. Where proposed amendments are, in the view of the secretary, sufficiently urgent to warrant it, they may be considered via a postal or email ballot of the AGGN membership, in lieu of being discussed at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 2. The secretary shall give fellows at least four weeks (28 days) notice of received proposals, ahead of the Annual General Meeting or postal/email ballot at which they will be discussed.
- 3. Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.

ARTICLE 10: ENTRY INTO FORCE

- 1. This constitution has been adopted on **DATE**, with an initial Executive Committee of:

CHAIRPERSON:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:

SECRETARY:

DEPUTY SECRETARY: