GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
GANHRI
formerly known as
Association of International Coordinating Committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC)

STATUTE
[version adopted on 7 March 2017]

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.

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

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Article 1
In this Statute
Days: In this statute, a reference to 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 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;
Regional Network means the body established by NHRI 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;
- 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 GANHRI Bureau;
SCA Rules of Procedure means the rules 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 NHRI 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.
4. GANHRI created by this Statute gives independent corporate personality to the loose arrangement of NHRIs hitherto existing under the former Rules of Procedure.

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 an international association of NHRIs which promotes and strengthens NHRIs to operate 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 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;
v) 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 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. GANHRI Bureau may decide to grant such organizations observer status at any meetings or workshops of GANHRI or GANHRI Bureau.
SECTION 5: PARIS PRINCIPLES ACCREDITATION

Article 10

[Note: Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, VII Rules of Procedure, rule 7(b), participation of NHRI 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 NHRI 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.]

Application for Accreditation

Any NHRI seeking accreditation under the Paris Principles shall apply to GANHRI Chairperson. Through 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. 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 GANHRI Bureau after considering a report from the SCA on the basis of written evidence submitted.

Article 11.2

In coming to a decision, 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 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 GANHRI Chairperson and copied to 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 GANHRI Secretariat will forward to 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 Bureau;
(iv) If an applicant NHRI submits a challenge within these twenty-eight (28) days, GANHRI Secretariat will forward to GANHRI Bureau members, as soon as practicable, all relevant material related to the challenge. GANHRI Bureau members will be provided with twenty (20) days in which to determine whether or not support this challenge;

(v) Any member of GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify the Chair of the SCA and GANHRI Secretariat of this support. If the challenge does not receive the support of at least one (1) Bureau member within twenty (20) days, the recommendation of the Sub-Committee will be deemed accepted by the Bureau;

(vi) If at least one (1) member of GANHRI Bureau supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI within these twenty (20) days, GANHRI Secretariat will notify members of the 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 GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of the applicant NHRI shall, within twenty (20) days, notify GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Secretariat of this support. If the challenge does not receive the support of at least four (4) Bureau members in total coming from not less than two (2) regions within the second twenty (20) days, the recommendation of the SCA will be deemed accepted by the Bureau;

(viii) If the challenge receives the support of at least four (4) 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 GANHRI Secretariat and will conclude at midnight, Central European Time (Geneva, Switzerland), on the final day.

**Article 12.3**
A member of 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 GANHRI Bureau that supports the challenge of an applicant NHRI must attest to its support by written communication to the SCA Chairperson and GANHRI Secretariat within the time periods specified in Article 12.1.

**Article 12.5**
No 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 GANHRI Bureau cannot support a challenge made on its own behalf.

**Article 12.7**
An applicant NHRI whose challenge will be heard by the Bureau pursuant to Article 12.1 (viii), and who is also a member of the Bureau, is excluded from participating in the Bureau meeting in which the challenge is heard and decided.
Article 13.1

Application for re-accreditation following declination

Should GANHRI Bureau decide to decline an application for re-accreditation of any NHRI by reason of its failure to comply with the Paris Principles, GANHRI Bureau or its delegate may consult further with that institution 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 Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

Article 14.1

Deferral

The SCA may decide to defer an application rather than make a decision on status.

Article 14.2

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

Article 15

Periodic re-accreditation

All NHRI that hold ‘A’ status are subject to re-accreditation on a five year cyclical basis. Article 10 applies to all NHRI 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 GANHRI Chairperson of those changes and 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 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, 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 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 GANHRI Chairperson and 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 GANHRI Chairperson, an exceptional circumstance exists necessitating the urgent suspension of an accredited ‘A’ status institution, GANHRI Bureau may decide to immediately suspend the accreditation classification of that institution and initiate a special review, pursuant to Article 16.2.

**Article 18.3**  
**Process for immediate suspension of accreditation in exceptional circumstances**  
The decision of GANHRI Bureau in such exceptional circumstance is final and is subject to the following process:

(i) GANHRI Chairperson, through GANHRI Secretariat, will immediately notify GANHRI Bureau and the institution 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 institution;

(ii) The institution can challenge the recommendation by submitting a written challenge to GANHRI Bureau, through GANHRI Secretariat, within thirty (30) days of the date of communication of the recommendation;

(iii) Any member of GANHRI Bureau who disagrees with the recommendation to suspend the accreditation classification of the institution shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of communication of the institution’s challenge, notify GANHRI Secretariat. GANHRI Secretariat will promptly notify all GANHRI Bureau members of the objection and will provide all necessary information to clarify that objection. If within twenty (20) days of the date of communication of this information at least two (2) members of GANHRI Bureau coming from not less than two (2) regions notify GANHRI Secretariat that they hold a similar objection, the recommendation shall be referred to the following GANHRI Bureau meeting for decision;

(iv) If no member of GANHRI Bureau raises an objection to the recommendation, within thirty (30) days of the date of communication of the institution’s challenge, the decision to suspend the institution’s status shall be deemed to be approved by 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, or if an NHRI under review under Article 16 of this Statute fails to provide sufficient documentation, within eighteen (18) months of being placed under review, to satisfy the body determining membership under this Statute that it remains in conformity with the Paris Principles.

Article 21
Duration of suspension
NHRI 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
NHRI 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 NHRI 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
NHRI 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 Chairperson of GANHRI 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 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 Chairperson of GANHRI, 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 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 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 be 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 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
- 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 accredited with an ‘A’ status which shall each have a representative on GANHRI Bureau.

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

Article 34
Ratification of GANHRI Bureau members; election of Chairperson and Secretary
The General Assembly ratifies the appointment of the members of GANHRI Bureau and elects GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Secretary. The members of GANHRI Bureau must be individuals representing the members of GANHRI accredited with an ‘A’ status which have been appointed by their Regional Networks under Article 31.
Article 35  
**Financial auditor**  
If required under Swiss Law, the General Assembly must elect an auditor who shall not be a member of GANHRI.

Article 36  
**Meetings**  
The General Assembly gathers at least once a year in conjunction with a session of the Human Rights Council upon written notice given by GANHRI Bureau to the members at least six (6) weeks in advance and at such other times required according to the law including when a request is demanded by one fifth (1/5) or more of the members.

Article 37  
**Agenda**  
The agenda of the meeting shall be submitted to the members with the written notice of meeting.

SECTION 9: RIGHT TO VOTE AND DECISIONS

Article 38  
**Voting, non-voting members and observers**  
At General Assemblies only members accredited with ‘A’ status shall be entitled to vote. A member that has been accredited with ‘B’ status has the right to participate and speak in General Assemblies (and all other open meetings and workshops of GANHRI). An NHRI that is not accredited with either ‘A’ or ‘B’ status may, with the consent of the particular meeting or workshop, attend as an observer. The Chairperson, after consultation with GANHRI Bureau, may invite NHRIs who are not members of GANHRI and any other person or institution to participate in the work of GANHRI as an observer.

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) institution in a State qualifies for membership that State shall have one (1) speaking right, one (1) voting right, and if elected, one (1) GANHRI Bureau member. The choice of an institution to represent the NHRI of a particular State shall be for the relevant institutions 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 members present or duly represented. The General Assembly will only deal with matters that are summarized in the Agenda. If necessary, or on the request of more than half of the members present at a General Assembly, GANHRI Chairperson can call an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 41  
**Quorum**  
A quorum of at least one half (1/2) of the total number of members is necessary.
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 Chairperson and the Secretary.

Article 44
Replacement
In the event that a representative of a member of a Regional Network for any reason is no longer able to represent that member, or if the member ceases to hold an ‘A’ status accreditation, or the member’s appointment under Article 31.4 is withdrawn, the representative shall cease to be a member of GANHRI Bureau and the Regional Network shall thereupon appoint another representative who shall act as a casual member of GANHRI Bureau until the next General Assembly.

Article 45
Rotation
The Chairperson and the 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 GANHRI Bureau
1. 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 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 mechanisms and processes, as well as OHCHR and UNDP, in particular work with OHCHR in connection with GANHRI accreditation process, General Assemblies of GANHRI, meetings of 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, GANHRI Bureau and its SCA;
   f) appoint a Finance Committee from members of GANHRI, consisting of one member nominated from each Regional Network, whose Chairperson 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 sub-committees, 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 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 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 GANHRI Chairperson, who shall make use of them in accordance with the general decisions of the Bureau. In matters with considerable financial implications for GANHRI, GANHRI Chairperson shall consult the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. GANHRI Chairperson may authorize GANHRI staff members to make payments in accordance with internal financial regulations to be established by GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Finance Committee.

**Article 47**

**Membership Subscription**

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 Bureau will ensure procedures are in place to collect membership subscriptions. 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 GANHRI Bureau**

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

**Article 49**

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

In particular, the 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 a General Assembly or 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 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 GANHRI Bureau. As a result, documents from GANHRI should be available in these languages.
2. GANHRI paid staff and employees attend the Bureau meetings, with only a consultative role and with no right to vote.

Article 50.2

Quorum, agenda, advisers

A majority of the members of GANHRI Bureau shall constitute a quorum.

Article 50.3

An agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the chairperson in consultation with 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 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 Chairperson.

Article 50.5

Voting and decision-making

Each member of GANHRI Bureau shall have one (1) vote. Where possible, decisions of 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

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

Article 50.7

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of Article 50, GANHRI Bureau may decide any matter in writing without the need to formally summon a meeting provided that a majority of members of GANHRI Bureau concur with the decision.
Article 50.8
Reporting to the General Assembly
GANHRI Bureau, through the Chairperson or in her or his absence through the Secretary, shall present to the General Assemblies reports on activities carried out by GANHRI, GANHRI Bureau and its officers since the preceding General Assembly.

Article 50.9
Remuneration
The 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
Further Procedure
Should any question concerning the procedure of GANHRI Bureau arise which is not provided for by these rules 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 of the 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 members are present. In any case the dissolution can only be approved by a majority of three quarters of the members present.

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.

SECTION 16: TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

Article 59
The SCA and the Rules of Procedure for the SCA continue in existence, and shall remain in existence until amended or revoked by GANHRI Bureau. The SCA is hereby constituted as a sub-committee of GANHRI Bureau.

Signed by:

GANHRI Chairperson
Beate Rudolf

GANHRI Secretary
Montserrat Solano Carboni