

**GROUP OF AFRICAN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (GAMA) AFFILIATED
TO FIDIC: A NOT-FOR-PROFIT NON- GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION**

CONSTITUTION

1. PREAMBLE

We, the national associations of consulting engineers in our respective countries being desirous of forming ourselves into a not-for-profit regional grouping of FIDIC representing the interests of its member associations in Africa

NOW therefore, agree as follows:

2. NAME

The name of the regional grouping of national associations of consulting engineers shall be GROUP OF AFRICAN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (hereinafter referred to as “GAMA”).

3. OBJECTS

The objects of the regional grouping are:

- 3.1 The development of a sustainable vibrant consulting engineering industry on the African continent.
- 3.2 The encouragement of regional co-operation among member associations.
- 3.3 The assistance to member associations where necessary.
- 3.4 The assistance to member associations in an attempt to get an equitable allocation of work on the Continent.

- 3.5 The encouragement of meaningful and sustainable technology transfer and capacity building.
- 3.6 The co-ordination of training programmes.
- 3.7 The encouragement of the formation of local associations of consulting engineers where these do not exist.
- 3.8 The promotion and enhancement of the status of the national associations of consulting engineers in Africa.
- 3.9 The encouragement of the attainment and maintenance of high standards of professional practice and ethics of local consulting engineers.
- 3.10 Making known the common opinions of member associations to such bodies as it is deemed from time to time to be necessary, and to make or support representation to governments and other appropriate bodies on questions affecting the interests of member associations, or that are in the public interest.
- 3.11 To encourage good relations and understanding between member associations their clients and the public.
- 3.12 To develop and maintain co-operation with other similar groupings of associations or with other professional associations and learned bodies.

4. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

- 4.1 Subject to the approval of Council, membership of GAMA is open to those national associations of consulting engineers who are affiliated to FIDIC and whose registered offices are located in a country in Africa.
- 4.2 Notwithstanding 3.1, MA's, not already affiliated to FIDIC, may apply to become members of GAMA provided that they undertake to become members of FIDIC within a three year period.

- 4.3 The category of Sustaining Member, as provided for in the FIDIC Statutes shall be recognised by GAMA in those instances where a member association has yet to be established.
- 4.4 Affiliation to FIDIC by a national association of consulting engineers located in Africa shall signify its eligibility to membership of GAMA.
- 4.5 GAMA shall compile and maintain a Membership Register.
- 4.6 Members who meet their membership obligations upon admission to GAMA will be issued with a Certificate of Membership.
- 4.7 Members whose membership obligations are not met in the prescribed time shall have their membership terminated and shall only be readmitted upon settling all outstanding dues and any other fines as the Council shall from time institute

5. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

- 5.2 The GAMA Council shall consist of two members from each Member Association, who shall be nominated by the respective associations for a minimum two year term, plus one member nominated by the FIDIC Executive Committee, who shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Council. Member associations may appoint alternates from time to time.
- 5.3 The GAMA Council shall be constituted at a GAMA annual general meeting/conference
- 5.4 The GAMA Council shall meet at least twice in each calendar year i.e. at the GAMA Conference /AGM, and at the FIDIC Conference/GAM
- 5.5 The notice calling GAMA Council members for a meeting including informing them of the agenda shall be issued by electronic mail to the respective secretariats of the national associations, provided that such notice shall not be less than three (3) months in advance.

- 5.6 The Office Bearers shall comprise, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer who shall be elected by the GAMA Council from amongst its members to serve a two-year term. Such election shall take place at a sitting immediately preceding the cessation of the previous two-year term.
- 5.7 The Office Bearers so designated shall constitute the Executive Committee of GAMA, who shall be responsible for the day to day running of GAMA, and the implementation of policies determined by Council from time to time.
- 5.8 The GAMA Council shall appoint and provide for the funding of a Secretariat on an agency basis which body shall serve the Council for a continuous period not in excess of four years, unless otherwise determined by Council.
- 5.9 The Secretariat shall be responsible for submitting an annual budget and associated business plan for approval by Council.
- 5.10 The quorum of the Council shall be at least one half of current membership. In the event of an insufficient number of attendees, the meeting shall be adjourned to another day. The quorum for such adjourned meeting shall be one third of its members.
- 5.11 A member association whose nominated representative(s) to Council absentee themselves for three consecutive Council meetings shall, by resolution of the Council sitting at the third meeting in respect of the subject breach, be required to replace such representative(s), providing that in the case of the appointed alternates being present this will suffice the requirements of this Article.
- 5.12 Each member association shall be required to submit an Annual Declaration in prescribed format declaring inter alia a register of member firms.

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GAMA COUNCIL.

The powers and duties of the GAMA Council shall be:

- 6.1 To set policy for the Executive Committee to manage and administer the affairs of GAMA.
- 6.2 To levy a subscription on each member association to be reviewed annually.
- 6.3 Council shall have the right to levy a surcharge on members not in good standing and/or members seeking re-admission to GAMA following lapse of such members' membership termination in accordance with Article 4.7.
- 6.4 To appoint any two among Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to act as co-signatories to operate and manage a bank account.
- 6.5 To create and promote alternate sources of income.
- 6.6 To appoint committees and sub-committees from amongst Members of Council from time to time.
- 6.7 The GAMA Council shall be considered retired at the end of a two-year term but shall act until the new Council is appointed.
- 6.8 The Council may at its discretion recognise an individual, legal person, state or member association for their extraordinary contribution or service in support of GAMA.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS.

Annual General Meeting:

- 7.1 At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be conducted:
 - 7.1.1 To read and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting and matters arising there from.

- 7.1.2 To receive reports.
- 7.1.3 The presentation for approval of the audited statement of accounts for the preceeding financial year.
- 7.1.4 Appointment of Auditor
- 7.1.5 Such other matters as shall have been communicated to the Secretary 60 days prior to the meeting and included in the notice of the meeting sent by him to the members.
- 7.1.6 Election of Office Bearers.
- 7.1.7 Any other business with the permission of the chair.
- 7.1.8 Determination of subscriptions
- 7.2 The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall be at least one half of existing member associations in good standing.
- 7.3 Extraordinary Meetings:

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time and shall be convened at the request of at least 50% of the member associations of GAMA. Such requisition must state the purpose for which such a meeting is required.
- 7.4 Notice of Meetings:

The Secretary shall give each member association a 45 days notice of any General Meeting stating all the particulars.
- 7.5 Votes at General Meetings:

At all General Meetings, each member association of GAMA shall have two votes.
- 7.6 The Chairman, in the absence of whom the Vice Chairman of GAMA, shall preside at all meetings but if they are not present within fifteen minutes after the appointed item for the meeting or if they have signified their inability to be present at the meeting, the members

present shall choose one of their members to be Chairman for the meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION

If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of GAMA shall be passed by a majority of three-quarters of the members present and voting thereon, the GAMA Council shall thereupon give notice of such resolution to FIDIC. The GAMA Council shall proceed to settle any outstanding obligations to any parties and get the accounts audited and the bank accounts closed. Any balances on the accounts of GAMA shall be donated to an institution of engineering training in Africa agreed upon by the executive committee.

8. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

The constitution can be amended and such alteration shall take effect only after it has been confirmed with a two third majority of member associations at a General Meeting of those present and voting.

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RECEIVED BY FIDIC FROM GAMA SECRETARY, 25 July 2005