

CONSTITUTION OF THE RWANDAN DIASPORA GLOBAL NETWORK (RDGN)

PREAMBLE

THE FOUNDING CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECALLING

The aim, the spirit and the Resolutions of the First Rwandan Diaspora Global Convention held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 26-30 December 2001,

RECOGNIZING

The need for the Rwandan Diaspora members to actively participate in the social, cultural and economic development of their motherland and the duty the Rwandan Diaspora owe to their future generations,

The need for special and continuous efforts from all stakeholders involved in the development of Rwanda, taking in account a host of parameters which led to the 1994 genocide and measures aimed at preventing the recurrence of genocide and promoting unity and reconciliation,

The efforts invested by the Government of Rwanda in rebuilding the country and devising her future strategies for a better quality of life for her people,

REALIZING

The substantial amount of contributions the Rwandan Diaspora can bring towards the promotion of Rwanda in their respective countries of residence and the socio-economic development of their motherland,

NOTING

The special commitment and support offered by the President and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to the Rwandan Diaspora since the inception of the Rwandan Diaspora Global Network,

The unity, loyalty, a sense of national belonging and the rich culture and values that sustain them, which are assets and opportunities that they guard, build upon, use as they live on, and pass on to future generations,

ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RWANDAN DIASPORA NETWORK

ARTICLE I

1.NAME

There is hereby established an Association known as THE RWANDAN DIASPORA GLOBAL NETWORK hereinafter abbreviated as RDGN

ARTICLE II

2.HEADQUARTERS

The Rwandan Diaspora Global Network shall have its registration and offices in Kigali, Rwanda. The network can open branches in other cities/countries or relocate its main office as may be decided by the Global Convention. It shall be governed by Rwandan Laws.

ARTICLE III

3. STATUS

The RDGN shall be a private, non-partisan, non-denominational, non-profit and non-governmental organization for all persons and institutions who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Organization.

ARTICLE IV

4. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The Official languages of RDGN shall be Kinyarwanda, English and French

ARTICLE V

5. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Executive Committee may propose Rules and Regulations of the RDGN to be approved by the Global Council.

ARTICLE VI

6. OBJECTS

To promote solidarity and better communication among Rwandans living in the Diaspora;

To establish a strong worldwide, broad-based, well organized network, so as to achieve better results in rebuilding Rwanda,

To maintain and promote the Rwandan culture and values associated with it throughout the network;

To promote friendship and cooperation in the fields of culture, science, technology and scientific research, unity and reconciliation and socio-economic cooperation among members of the Rwandan Diaspora, between the said members and communities/countries where they live, and between them/their countries of residence and their motherland Rwanda.

To provide a forum to the Rwandan Diaspora members, the Republic of Rwanda, as well as various other interested parties-national and international, for the exchange of views and experiences, the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on Diaspora-related issues.

To work closely with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the Rwandan public and private sectors, international organizations-governmental and non-governmental bodies, in order, inter alia, to facilitate the coordination of the RDGN and the running of its socio-economic projects.

ARTICLE VII

7. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of RDGN shall comprise the following five categories : -

- a) Founding members
- b) Ordinary members
- c) Associate members
- d) Corporate members
- e) Honorary members

Founding members shall be the signatories to the constitution establishing the Rwanda Diaspora Global Network.

Ordinary membership shall be open to any person of 18 years and above of Rwandan who is part of the Diaspora and who subscribes to the aims and objectives of RDGN.

Associate membership shall be open to any adult person who is not a member of RDGN, living in Rwanda or not, who believes in the aims and bjects of RDGN.

Corporate membership shall be open to legal entities inside or outside the Republic of Rwanda who support the aims and objects of RDGN and are willing to advance them.

The Executive Committee may invite and nominate any person to be an Honorary member on merit and such nomination shall be approved by not less than two thirds of the Global Council members.

ARTICLE VIII

8. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Admission to all categories of membership shall be governed by procedures laid down in the rules and regulations of RDGN, hereinafter referred to as “rules”.

ARTICLE IX

9. MEMBERS' RIGHTS

All members shall be entitled to have their names included on the official list of members.

All members shall be entitled to receive all publications of RDGN upon such conditions as may be determined by the Global Council.

All members shall be entitled to participate in the activities of RDGN, subject to provisions of 9.4 and 9.5 below.

All members except Honorary, Associate and Corporate members shall be entitled to vote at RDGN's Global Convention and each member shall have one vote only.

All members except Associate, Corporate and Honorary members, shall be eligible to hold office in RDGN

ARTICLE X

10. DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

All members shall be bound to uphold this Constitution.

All members, except Honorary members, shall pay membership fees and contributions when due as provided in the rules.

All members will be expected to devote their energy, ability and time to the advancement of RDGN and to attend meetings of RDGN.

ARTICLE XI

CESSATION AND READMISSION

Cessation including but not limited to expulsion, suspension and resignation as well as re-admission of membership shall be governed by procedures provided for in the rules.

ARTICLE XII

12. ORGANS OF THE RDGN

The RDGN shall have the following organs: The Global Convention, The Global Council and The Executive Committee.

12.1 The Global Convention

12.1. a) The Global Convention constituted by all members shall be the supreme body of RDGN and the Global Council or any Committee established under the authority of the Global Convention shall be subordinate and accountable to the Global Convention.

12.1. b) The Global Convention shall meet every two years to receive reports, conduct elections and carryout any other activity as proposed by the Global council.

12.1.c) Decisions of the Global Convention shall, unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution, be carried by simple majority and the Chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

12.1.d)The quorum of the Global Convention shall be based on at least a 50% representation of the regions.

12.1. e) When the Global Convention lacks a quorum the meeting shall be postponed and shall be held one day thereafter with or without a quorum.

12.1. g).Any member desirous of moving any resolution at the Global Convention shall give notice thereof to the Executive Secretary General at least three weeks before the date of such meeting.

12.2 GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12.2.a) The functions of the Global Executive Committee shall be:

- i. to run the day- to-day management of the RDGN on behalf of the Global Council;
- ii. to advise the Global Council on the policies, general action plan and projects of the Network;
- iii. to prepare activity reports and recommendations for the Global Council;
- iv. to prepare the programme, the budget and financial reports for the Global Council;
- v. to take any appropriate action to further the purposes of the Network

12.2.b) The Global Executive Committee shall be composed of:

- i. Chairperson;
- ii. two Vice-Chairpersons;
- iii. a Secretary General;
- iv. a Deputy Secretary General;
- v. a Treasurer;
- vi. a Deputy Treasurer.

12.2.c) The Global Executive Committee is elected at the Global Convention.

12.3. GLOBAL COUNCIL

12.3. a) The Global Council of RDGN shall comprise all executive committee members and commissioners who shall be elected at the Global Convention .

12.3.b) The Global Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities :

- i. Propose levels of membership fees and contributions;
- ii. Approve expenditure of funds ;
- iii. Admit or suspend members as provided in the Constitution and rules;
- iv. Establish and dissolve committees as may be found necessary for the execution of its functions,
- v. Appoint auditors and employ staff as required
- vi. Approve the annual report
- vii. Perform any other duties pursuant to the objectives of the RDGN.
- viii. Propose rules and amendments thereto to the Global Convention whose adoption shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

12.3.c) The Global Council shall meet every two years and exceptionally when need arises.

12.3.d) The decisions of the Global Council unless otherwise provided in this Constitution or in the Rules, shall be by simple majority, the Chairperson having a casting vote in the event of a tie. The quorum for the Global Council shall be at least half of its members.

12.3.e) The Global Council members shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election.

12.3.f) The following office bearers of RDGN shall be elected at the Global Convention:-

- i. One chairperson;
- ii. Two vice Chairpersons;
- iii. One executive Secretary General;
- iv. One assistant Executive Secretary General;
- v. One treasurer;
- vi. One assistant Treasurer;
- vii. The Commissioner for unity, solidarity and civism;
- viii. The Commissioner for information and communication;
- ix. The Commissioner for the advancement of science, technology, and scientific research;
- x. The Commissioner for legal affairs and international cooperation;
- xi. The Commissioner for investment and tourism;
- xii. The Commissioner for planification and fund raising;
- xiii. The Commissioner for social economic affairs, health and human resource development;
- xiv. The Commissioner for gender issues;
- xv. The Commissioner for youth, sports and entertainment;

- xvi. The Commissioner for education and culture;
- xvii. The Commissioner for organisation and special events;
- xviii. The commissioner for environment.

ARTICLE XIV

13. FUNDS AND PROPERTIES

13.1. The RDGN shall derive its funds and income from membership fees and annual contributions from its members, sale of literature, donations, grants and from its own income generating activities.

13.2. The RDGN shall NOT receive funds, donations gifts or grants from any source, if by receiving them the autonomy of the RDGN is compromised, its image diminished or its status prejudiced.

13.3. All funds of the RDGN shall be received by the Treasurer who shall deposit them in the RDGN's Bank Account. The signatories of the Bank Account shall be appointed by the Global Council.

ARTICLE XV

14. AUDIT

14.1. A qualified and registered external Auditor who shall not be a member of the RDGN shall be appointed by the Global Council.

14.2. At the close of every financial year the Treasure shall prepare the annual accounts of the RDGN and submit them to the external Auditor.

14.3. The external Auditor shall have access to all books, accounts and documents of the RDGN and shall verify the annual statement with the accounts and vouchers relating thereto. S/he shall certify the same or make a special report to the RDGN stating in what respect he finds it incorrect, unvouched or not in conformity with the law.

ARTICLE XV

15. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly constituted Global Convention provided the notice for such a meeting and the proposed amendments have been communicated to the members three months prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE XVI

16. THE SEAL

The Seal of the RDGN shall be in the custody of the Executive Secretary General and its use shall be regulated by the rules and regulations.

ARTICLE XVII

17. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the RDGN shall begin on the 1st January and end on 31st December of each year. The first financial year shall start on the date of its being recognized as a legal entity and shall end on the 31st December of the same year.

ARTICLE XVIII

18. INTERPRETATION

The Global Council shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution and its rules. Decision of the Global Council on any question/matter of interpretation shall be final and binding to all members.

ARTICLE XIX

19. DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed to that effect by a two-thirds majority of all voting members at an Extra-Ordinary, Global Convention called especially for the purpose. The same Global Convention shall appoint a person or persons to be liquidators and the Trustees shall oversee the final disposal of the Association's assets.