

The Co-Willing

AFRICA RISING: CREATING A CONTINENT AND WORLD THAT WORKS FOR ALL

Articles of Association

Preamble

The founders of the Co-Willing, cognizant that:

- 1) The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948 has not yet led to the universal enjoyment of human rights;
- 2) The sustainable development goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, if implemented diligently and without delay, will improve the lot of humanity considerably;
- 3) Constitutional democracy under the rule of law, with due implementation of justiciable bills of rights at the national level, will serve to enhance the prospects of success with the sustainable development goals particularly if strong institutions of state are fostered;

And aware that:

- 4) Many projects are already underway to address development and transformation at the local, national, regional and international levels;
- 5) It is the responsibility of all individuals of good will and honor to encourage and work for human rights to be respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled everywhere;
- 6) The coordination of efforts by those who work for good governance, sustainable development and leadership with integrity will improve the lot of the poor and the marginalized;

Commit to the mission of the Co-Willing with the vision that:

Africa shall be the continent of the 21st century with its rich human diversity, stretching out a friendly hand across the borders to reach out to others as they tell stories of joy, pain, and struggles to reclaim their freedom and their Ubuntu; and that

Africa shall come to the round table of deliberations with other continents bringing a contagious smile and warmth to enlighten the world and saying clearly: it is better to be than to have.

Article 1

Name and Registered Office

- 1) The name of the Association is “The Co-Willing”.
- 2) The Co-willing is a not-for-profit association according to articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss Civil Code.
- 3) The Association is domiciled in Geneva, Switzerland. Its duration is unlimited.
- 4) The official language of the Association is English.

Article 2

Purpose, Principles and Values

- 1) The Association is a voluntary, humanitarian, non-political, non-governmental and non-partisan organization. Its purpose is
 - a) To work with urgency on burning issues in order to realize Africa and the world's full potential by taking concrete action to promote sustainable economic development, to encourage leadership with integrity and to create the conditions for good governance;
 - b) To change the collective consciousness of Africa and the World through words, declarations, manifesting goals, collaborations, partnerships and pulling together as one of the apex species on the planet.
- 2) The Association may engage in all activities and take all actions necessary and appropriate to carry out the above objectives, including working with individuals, groups and entities of various countries to holistically address issues affecting people's livelihood and quality of life. Specifically, the Association aims to work on:
 - a) Trust-building: reconciliation and social cohesion through building trust across the world's divides;
 - b) Ethical leadership: developing a leadership culture based on moral integrity, compassion and selfless service;
 - c) Sustainable living: economic justice and environmental sustainability by transformation of motives and behavior.
- 3) The Association is founded on the conviction of lifting people out of vulnerability, poverty and marginalization, to honor people through servant leadership with integrity and economic empowerment. Its vision is that of a just, peaceful and sustainable world to which everyone responding to the call of their conscience makes their unique contribution. The Association further subscribes to the following principles and values that are its core-governing tools:
 - a) Leadership with integrity and honor;
 - b) The primacy of humanity's unity in diversity over race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious conscience, belief, culture, language and birth;
 - c) The supremacy of the rule of law with the upholding and promotion of human rights;
 - d) Promotion of media freedom;
 - e) The independence of the judiciary, the separation of powers between the different spheres of government and effective checks and balances on the exercise of public responsibility;
 - f) Accountability, transparency and responsiveness.

Article 3

Full Members and Associate Members

- 1) The Association has core members and associate members. In order to qualify for admission, core members and associate members must accept the tenets of these Articles of Association and commit to the Association's Code of Conduct.
- 2) Associate members shall have no right to vote or to take part in elections and shall not be entitled to be on the Board or to be members of committees or other bodies.

Article 4

Membership Fees

- 1) Core members and associate members shall pay an annual membership fee which shall be determined by the General Meeting. The membership fee due by organizations may be scaled according to the size of the organization.
- 2) Membership fees will be due on demand for payment and shall be paid within 30 days.

Article 5

Membership, Code of Conduct and Core Principles

- 1) The founding members as per the Association's deed of incorporation are the initial core members
- 2) Otherwise, core membership and associate membership commences upon appointment by the General Meeting and receipt by the Association of the membership fee for the first year.
- 3) Core membership and associate membership cease on the date on which a member resigns. They also may be terminated by exclusion by the General Meeting or, in case of non-payment of the membership fee when due at the discretion of the Board.
- 4) Core members and associate members may resign from the Association at any time by notifying the secretariat in writing. Resigning members have no rights against the assets of the Association.
- 5) Membership will also be terminated in the event of the member becoming of unsound mind, upon receipt of appropriate evidence or notification.
- 6) Membership Code of Conduct

Acceptance of membership is an agreement to accept and adhere to:

6.1 Compliance with all of the membership criteria that embraces the association's core values, purpose and principles as stated within Article 2 of the constitution.

6.2 Agreement to desist from undertaking any action or activity which will in any way endanger, abuse or harm the reputation, resources, connections or positive actions and programmes of the association and its members. Desist from any action that may prohibit the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the association.

6.3 Agreement to abide by the laws of the respective countries wherein membership have their residential and office addresses and undertake work of the association.

6.4 Agreement to contribute and add value in fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the association.

6.5 Agreement to communicate regularly, update oneself and be as fully informed as possible on key issues, as well as responsive to requests made from time to time by the Co-Willing management.

6.6 Agreement to deal with each other in a respectful and dignified manner, adhering to the core values and principles of the association.

6.7 Seeking to promote harmony and peace within the Association and those areas where the Association membership is proactive.

6.8 Agreement and acceptance of all conditions contained within Articles 3 and 4 of the constitution.