

GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS



Constitution and Bylaws

GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS - (GHIA)

Constitution and Bylaws

As adopted at the 2012 Annual General Meeting that took place at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D.C. on September 4, 2012. This current version was ratified by the founding members of GHIA on December 2, 2012.

Article I. Name of the Organization

a. The name of this organization is established as GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS, referred to hereafter as GHIA or “the Organization.” GHIA is domiciled at 1889 F Street, Suite 3 (3rd. floor), Washington, DC 20006.-
P.O.Box 58058.

b. For historical purposes, GHIA descended directly from the membership of a group of former senior technical officers of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Americas, that has been functioning as an informal public health ‘think tank’ initiated in 2010.

Article II. Purpose and Mission

a. The purpose of GHIA is to offer a forum, basic conditions and operational means to senior professionals with experience in the various fields of international health and socioeconomic development, for exchange of information and experiences as well as provision of advisory services to governments, agencies and institutions.

b. GHIA is guided by the basic values of technical excellence, respect, ethical behavior and solidarity and has as its mission “to strive for better health and well being for all peoples through advocacy, health promotion, technical advice, and support of sound policies.” In this endeavor, the organization will act through its members individually or as organized teams and also in cooperation with agencies and organizations with similar and compatible goals.

c. To this end, GHIA is registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the District of Columbia, United States of America and governed by the applicable laws of that District, or such other state or country as the Board of Directors may approve for expansion of its activities

Article III. Objectives and Functions

a. The objectives of GHIA are as follows:

To provide advisory services to agencies, organizations and countries in the planning, organization, execution and evaluation of projects and programs oriented to the improvement of public health, health services and community health.

To gather, review, analyze and disseminate information from scientific literature, project analysis, and program evaluation related to health and social development.

To provide information on issues and activities of interest to GHIA and its membership through special consultations and other means of communication including electronic applications such as virtual fora, videoconferences, web portal, e-newsletter and mailing list.

To motivate, invite and associate interested and well-qualified individuals to assist GHIA in the design and development of specific international programs and projects directed to the improvement of health and well-being of people and communities.

To mobilize human and financial resources for programs and projects oriented to the improvement of the health of individuals and populations through donations, grants, contracts and other mechanisms.

b. The basic functions of GHIA are: 1) advocacy, 2) knowledge and information management, and 3) provision of technical advisory services through the implementation of the following activities:

Promotion of awareness, interest and support of programs, projects and agencies involved in international cooperation in the field of public health and socioeconomic development. This includes mobilization of human and financial resources.

Establishment of a liaison network among its members and between GHIA and similar organizations in order to cooperate and support specific health projects and programs. This includes maintenance of a roster of experts and professionals working in scientific and technical fields related to GHIA's interests and activities.

Provision of technical and policy advice in the planning, implementation and evaluation of health and social development projects and programs, according to the fields of expertise and interest of GHIA members.

Development and maintenance of a web portal for the exchange of information and ideas; discussion groups; review of models, joint project design and other information concerning health programs and activities of interest to GHIA and other parties involved in international health.

Organization and support of scientific presentations, panels, roundtables, discussion and working groups, and other events directly related to international health.

Training, mentoring and teaching of professionals, students and other interested parties through courses conferences, workshops, personal advice and other mechanisms designed by GHIA.

Article IV. Membership

a. GHIA shall be composed of scientists, public health and health policy advisors, managers and other professionals who have at least 20 years of experience and active work in international health or a related field and who are committed to achieve the purpose and objectives of GHIA.

b. There will be three classes of membership – founding, general and distinguished. Founding members are those who signed the Charter for the creation of GHIA. General members are professionals invited by a member and approved by the Board of Directors. Distinguished members are those professionals who have occupied a high level position in a prestigious Organization or Institution or are recognized by their special qualifications and merits by the majority of the members.

Article V. Dues and Revenues

a. Dues will be an amount decided annually by the Board of Directors.

b. Donations, grants and other monies collected from publications or advertisements in GHIA publications or pamphlets will be added to its general treasury. The same applies to any other income from GHIA products and services.

c. Payments received by individual members through specific personal contract by other agencies or individuals outside of GHIA and not on behalf of GHIA, are not subject to this rule.

All members contributing articles to any publication or website - reviews, etc. do so of their own free will.

Article VI. Governance

a. GHIA will be governed by an Executive Management (EM), consisting of: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President will be elected by the votes of 2/3 or more of all the members and he/she will choose the three additional officials of the EM. The President's mandate is for two years with no reelection. After an interval of two years the same person could be elected again to the position of President.

- b.** The four officials referred to above together with the founding members constitute the Board of Directors (BoD) A founding member could propose another general member as his/her replacement in case he/she decides or is unable to participate in the BoD.
- c.** The majority of the BoD members could designate a new member of the Board or the replacement of one of its members. In case of an unforeseen circumstance or if any of these officers should be unable to serve, the President will appoint a replacement until that position's term ends.
- d.** GHIA will have Technical and Scientific Sections (TSS) and Chapters. TSS refer to areas of knowledge and activity while Chapters refer to the extension of GHIA to other states and countries.
- e.** New Sections or the elimination of a Section require the vote of the absolute majority (2/3 of the membership) of the total registered members of the organization. Each TSS will have a Coordinator designated by the BoD in consultation with the membership. The Coordinator will develop the TSS program of activities to be presented in general meetings and approved by the Board..
- f.** The Chapters will follow the same rules that apply to the TSS, as described above.
- g.** All officers and TSS and Chapter Coordinators shall be members in good standing with GHIA and must remain so during their tenure in office. If any officer or Coordinator fails to maintain his or her membership in good standing, the President, on behalf of the Board of Directors will appoint a replacement until the next election for that position is held.
- h.** In case of disagreement, the Board of Directors may act at a regular or special meeting to ratify or overturn any decision made solely by the President. A 2/3 majority vote will be the deciding factor.

Article VII. Duties of Officers of the Executive Management

a. President

Presides over all meetings of Executive Board and Board of Directors; Makes, after due consultation with the BoD, all policy decisions related to the activities of GHIA; Monitors all activities of GHIA via the various Officers and Coordinators. Performs other duties, as assigned

b. Vice President

Presides over all meetings of the Executive Board and Board of Directors in the absence of the President; Assists the President in all major policy decisions; Directly monitors the activities of the TSS and Chapters of the Organization and informs the BoD at its meetings. Performs other duties, as assigned

c. Secretary

Schedules and convenes all meetings on behalf of the President; Keeps minutes of all Executive Management and BoD meetings; Maintains full and up-to-date information on all members of the Organization. Ensures that GHIA has a functioning and up-to-date communication infrastructure and strategy. Performs as official historian of the Organization

d. Treasurer

Collects all monies and disburses funds as required to pay for expenses incurred by the Organization (all financial documents should be co-signed by the Treasurer and the President;) Provides a written summary report of GHIA's financial status to the membership at least once per year via the national publication or at the Annual General Meeting.

f. Appointed Section Coordinator

Designs, organizes and implements the program of activities of the TSS that he/she coordinates; Invites experts inside and outside of GHIA to join and participate in TSS activities; Works closely with the Secretary to determine that activities carried out by members of GHIA on a local or regional basis reflect the organization's values, mission and operating procedures; Promotes the work of GHIA as well as that of his/her TSS and participates in resource mobilization to support its activities.

Article VIII. Procedural Matters

a. Election of the President – This will be held at the annual meeting of GHIA. In case of impediment or resignation of the President a special general meeting will be convened for this purpose.

b. Meetings – The officials of the EM shall meet formally at least every two months. The BoD shall meet regularly not less than three times a year. Any member of the organization could attend the BoD meeting. A general meeting should take place at least once a year.

c. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws- These require approval by a 2/3 majority of the membership. Amendments may be recommended to the BoD at any time by any member. After an evaluation by the BoD as to its applicability and relevance, the recommendation will be placed on a ballot and offered to the general membership for adoption/rejection via a website-based voting process approved by the BoD. Adoption/ Rejection will be based on a simple majority of ballots received.

Article IX. Affiliate GHIA Chapter

a. Based on a common shared interest in the principles and goals of GHIA, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, Chapters may be created at different geographic locations.

b. A minimum of three (3) approved members should be residing in the geographic area (country, state, city or equivalent) to justify the creation of a GHIA Chapter which has to be approved by the Board.

c. Local chapters should use the term GHIA in their name, e.g. "GHIA – ARGENTINA" or "GHIA – LEBANON" or "GHIA – MIAMI."

d. Chapters are expected to adhere to the Constitution and Bylaws of GHIA. Failure to adhere to the above rules, or presenting the Organization in a negative light, will result in the subject Chapter losing its affiliation with GHIA.

Article X. Dissolution

a. If, for any reason, this Organization should be dismantled or dissolved, all remaining assets and monies shall be given to the Association of Former Staff Members of the Pan American health Organization.