



STATUTS

Articles of Association

Disclaimer

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Introduction

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, forms the reference framework of the Association. The Association will develop its activities with particular reference to the first article of the Declaration: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'

1. Name, headquarters and aims of the Association

- 1.1 The Gao Aid Association (AAG) is a non-profit organisation bound by these Articles of Association and by article 60 onwards of the Civil Code of Switzerland. Its headquarters are based in the home of the President of the Association. The duration of the Association is not limited.
- 1.2 The aim of the Association is to give aid to the deprived population of Gao in Mali whilst respecting their traditions and local values.

2. Members

2.1 Individual member

Anyone who wishes to help and support the activities of the Association can become an individual member.

2.2 Group member

Any institution or group of people who wish to help and support the activities of the Association can become a group member.

2.3 Honorary member

The Committee can propose and the General Assembly can designate anyone to be an honorary member in recognition of their humanitarian work.

- 2.4 **Requests for admission** must be addressed to a member of the Committee. The Committee is responsible for approving all admissions.

- 2.5 **Leaving the Association:** membership is terminated by
- a.) Resignation made in writing to the President. Subscription payments for the remainder of the year remain due.
 - b.) Non respect of the aims of the Association.
 - c.) Unauthorised non payment of subscriptions.

Individuals who have terminated their membership or have had their membership terminated will have no right to or claim on any assets of the Association.

3. The Administrative Organs of the Association

3.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is the supreme power of the Association. It takes place once a year following at least ten days notice from the Committee. The powers of the AGM are:

- to adopt and modify statutes;
- to elect Committee members and auditors for the accounts;
- to approve reports, accept the accounts and vote on the budget;
- to discharge the Committee and auditors of the accounts;
- to set annual subscription rates for individual and group members. Active or volunteer members with no income may be exempt from subscriptions;
- to discuss any other projects on the agenda;
- to dissolve the Association on a 2/3 majority vote of members present.

With the exception of the amendment of statutes and the dissolution of the Association, votes will be carried with a simple majority. A member will be deprived of his/her vote (except for the election of the Committee) if he/she, their partner or direct family member is involved in any legal process.

It is possible to nominate another member of the Association to vote by proxy. The AGM will be presided over by the President or a member of the Committee.

An Extraordinary General Meeting can be convened by the Committee or 1/5 of the members. This can be done as often as necessary. The agenda will be circulated to members at least ten days ahead of the meeting.

3.2 The Committee

The Committee or management will be elected at the AGM. The composition of the Committee is open and will be fixed at the first Committee meeting. In case of a 50/50 split in a vote at Committee meetings, the President's vote will count double.

As a general rule, Committee members will be elected for two years and may be re-elected. Elections may be made by open ballot, acclamation or secret ballot.

The Committee will deal with all Association affairs which are beyond the powers of the AGM. The Committee will take any necessary decisions which are not covered by the agenda of the AGM, these decisions will always be made in accordance with the stated aims of the Association.

The Committee may be composed of a maximum of nine members but will comprise at least:

- A President
- A Vice-President
- A Secretary
- A Treasurer

Two Committee members have the power to sign on behalf of the Association. One of the two must be the President.

The Committee is responsible for

- taking all necessary measures to achieve the stated aims of the Association;
- convening Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings;
- taking decisions related to the admission, resignation and exclusion of members;
- ensuring the application of the Articles and rules, and administering the assets of the Association.

The Committee will keep the Association accounts. These will be audited by two auditors.

3.3 The Auditors

The auditors will be elected by the AGM for a period of two years. They will be required to make a report to the AGM on the reliability of the accounts. The auditors will be independent of the Committee. They may come from outside the Association.

4. Finances and Fundraising

4.1 The principal revenues of the Association will be:

- membership subscriptions;
- funds raised by fundraising events;
- third party donations;
- subsidies for specific projects undertaken within the framework of the stated aims of the Association.

The Association is a non-profit organisation.

4.2 Expenses will usually include:

- medicines, food products, equipment, vehicles, salaries and running costs inherent in the Association's projects as well as the projects themselves.
- the mandates of members of the Committee are undertaken in a voluntary capacity.

4.3 Liabilities

The liability of the Association cannot exceed its assets. Members cannot be held personally liable for the debts of the Association beyond their personal membership subscriptions.

As necessary, the Committee will issue rules or orders. On demand these will be subject to the approval of the members.

5. Modification of the Articles, dissolution of the Association

5.1 Modification of the Articles

Any member may submit, in writing, a request for amendment to an Article at least five weeks before an AGM. The exact wording of the amendment must be communicated to the members at least ten days before the AGM. Amendments will be accepted with a 2/3 majority of members present.

5.2 Dissolution of the Association

The Association can be dissolved with the written approval of at least 2/3 of the members. In the same way, the members will decide on the distribution of the assets of the Association in the event of dissolution. The assets can only be given to a Swiss humanitarian institution which is exempt from taxation.

The present Articles were adopted by the Annual General Meeting on the 14th March 2006 at Chiblins