

**2d International Meeting of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment  
19-21 May 2017  
Brasília, Brazil**

**STATUTE  
of the**

**GLOBAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Established under Articles 60 and 79 of the Swiss Civil Code  
Registered in Geneva, Switzerland, on \_\_\_ 2017

**Article 1: Nature and Seat**

The Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE) is established as an autonomous international association of judges and judicial institutions. The mission of the GJIE is to support the role of judges, courts, and tribunals in applying and enforcing environmental laws and in promoting the environmental rule of law. As an institution organized by judges and for judges, the GJIE is committed to judicial independence, transparency, and integrity. The GJIE serves the public interest, is a non-profit association and is constituted as a charitable organization. Its legal seat is Geneva, Switzerland.

**Article 2: Objectives**

Consistent with its mission and Charter adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the GJIE is established to promote and fulfill the following objectives:

- a. Provide research, analysis, and publications on environmental adjudication, environmental dispute resolution, court practices and procedures, court administration, legal claims and actions, judicial remedies, and environmental justice, including access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, and access to justice;
- b. Strengthen the capacity of judges, courts, and tribunals in the administration and resolution of cases and disputes related to the environment;
- c. Convene international, regional, national, and subnational judges, courts, tribunals, court officials, and judicial education institutions to create partnerships for collaboration, share best judicial practices, and exchange information on environmental law issues; and
- d. Pursue such other objectives as consistent with the mission and Charter of the GJIE.

**Article 3: Members**

1. Individual membership in the GJIE is open to:
  - a. Individuals currently serving as judges or in a capacity as judicial decision-makers on specialized environmental courts or tribunals at international, regional, national, or subnational levels; and

- b. Individuals currently serving as judges or in a capacity as judicial decision-makers at superior courts, constitutional courts, trial courts, or other courts or tribunals at international, regional, national, and subnational levels, with an expressed interest or expertise in environmental matters.
2. Institutional membership in the GJIE is open to international, regional, national, and subnational courts and tribunals, and to judicial institutions, such as judicial institutes, schools, associations, academies, and other similar organizations that are directed by judges and are composed of or provide services to judges and judiciaries.
3. The Founding Members (see Annex II) consist of the judges participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Environmental Law Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in April 2016 and/or the Second International Meeting of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment in Alto Paraiso de Goiás, Brazil in May 2017.
4. Procedures for the admission of GJIE Members and the responsibilities of Members shall be established by the GJIE Governing Council in the GJIE Bylaws. Individual membership may continue until the judge's resignation or retirement, so long as the member otherwise meets the requirements in this Statute.
5. The Governing Council may set applicable annual dues for institutional and/or individual members in order to support the work of the Institute, under criteria to be determined in the GJIE Bylaws. Any such dues will be scaled to reflect the economy in the member's country.

#### **Article 4: General Assembly**

1. The Members constitute the General Assembly of the GJIE.
2. The General Assembly shall meet from time to time, either by teleconference, videoconference, other electronic means, or in person. Voting may be done by electronic ballot.
3. The General Assembly shall elect from among its members the Governing Council described in Article 5, in a manner to be provided by the GJIE Bylaws, with due regard for geographic and gender balance.

#### **Article 5: Governing Council**

1. The GJIE shall have a Governing Council of 14 members, which serves as its board of directors. The Governing Council may include both individual and institutional members.
2. The Governing Council shall elect from among the Council Members an Executive Committee, with the following officers:
  - A) A President;
  - B) Two Vice Presidents;
  - C) A Chief Financial Officer; and
  - D) A Secretary.

3. No two of the five officers in the Executive Committee may be from the same Region (see Annex III).
4. The President of the Governing Council serves as a legal representative of the GJIE and is authorized to represent the GJIE. The Governing Council may also delegate this power to any of its members, following procedures to be specified in the Bylaws.
5. The Governing Council may appoint an Executive Director to lead the work of a Secretariat and be responsible for administration of the GJIE. When appointed, and in accordance with terms of reference approved by the Executive Committee, the Executive Director may also serve as a legal representative of the GJIE.
6. The Governing Council may establish committees from within the GJIE membership, and shall establish the rules and terms of reference for such committees. The Governing Council may invite recognized experts who maintain a commitment to ecologically sustainable development and to judicial independence and integrity to serve as advisors to the committees, on a non-voting basis.
7. The Governing Council shall adopt, review, and may revise as necessary, the Bylaws for the GJIE. The Governing Council shall also present regular reports to the Members on the work of the GJIE.
8. The Interim Governing Committee shall be formed as indicated in the Transitory Provisions (Annex I).

#### **Article 6: Programs**

The GJIE shall establish programs and activities that are appropriate to serve its functions under Article 2. The GJIE may do so directly as well as through agreements with other organizations or individuals.

#### **Article 7: Amendment**

The General Assembly, by a simple majority of those voting, may adopt amendments to this Statute. Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Council or by the Members, in a manner to be provided in the Bylaws.

#### **Article 8: Dissolution**

The GJIE may be dissolved by decision of the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of those voting. Upon being dissolved, the assets of the GJIE shall be transferred to a regional or national judicial institute or other appropriate entity selected by the GJIE Governing Council.

Approved by Founding Members of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment in their individual capacity at the Second International Meeting of the GJIE  
Signed at Chapad  dos Veadeiros National Park  
UNESCO World Heritage Site  
Alto Para so de Goi s, Brazil  
21 May 2017

Antonio Benjamin

Populino de Azevedo

Miguel  . Wolff

Egon

Abd  l-Muhsin Ahmad

Damaris Vargas Vasquez

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## **Annex I: Transitory Provisions**

1. The GJIE shall have an Interim Governing Committee of up to 14 members, chosen from among all the Founding Members of the Institute, taking into account regional (see Annex III) and gender balance, to serve for a period of 2 years.
2. The Founding Members present at the *Second International Meeting of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment* in Alto Paraiso de Goiás, Brazil in May 2017 have elected three initial members of the Interim Governing Committee, chosen according to their role as coordinators in planning and carrying out this Meeting and their participation in the 1st World Environmental Law Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in April 2016.
3. These three initial members, Justice Antônio Herman Benjamin of the National High Court of Brazil, Justice Ragnhild Noer of the Supreme Court of Norway, and Justice Michael Wilson of the Supreme Court of Hawaii, United States of America, shall invite partner institutions and Founding Members to make nominations from among the Founding Members, and will select the remaining members of the Interim Governing Committee, taking into account the criteria in Paragraph 1 of these provisions.
4. The Interim Governing Committee shall exercise the authority and responsibilities provided for the Governing Council in this Statute. The Interim Governing Committee shall elect one of its members to serve as the legal and authorized representative of the GJIE and another to serve as its financial officer.
5. The GJIE General Assembly shall hold a meeting in Brasília, Brazil in March 2018 in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, contingent on the availability of funding and other resources.

## **Annex II: List of GJIE Founding Members** (to be attached)

## **Annex III: Regions of the GJIE** (to be attached)