

CONSTITUTION OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR GEOSPATIAL HEALTH – GNOSISGIS

S T A T U T E S

The name of this association shall be the
GLOBAL NETWORK FOR GEOSPATIAL HEALTH - GNOSISGIS

1. The purposes of the global network shall be:

(i) to encourage research in medical applications of the geospatial sciences and to promote exchange of information and material between individuals and organizations interested in this field;

(ii) to organize scientific meetings on topics relevant to geospatial health research, including human and animal health and zoonoses;

(iii) to collaborate with international organizations such as AFSA, EU, FAO, WHO, with private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and with national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental development agencies in all matters involving geospatial technologies;

(iv) to prepare and publish the journal *Geospatial Health* and other publications that promote use of geospatial analysis tools in the medical sciences

(v) to offer training courses through an *International School of Geospatial Health* to promote effective utilization of geospatial tools by health scientists at entry through advanced levels.

2. The global network shall be an independent, stand-alone organization but may affiliate with other scientific organizations, where appropriate, to further the purposes of the global network.

3. The global network will take part in arranging appropriate contributions to programs of other scientific organizations such as symposia, workshops and short courses relating to geospatial health methodologies. Other scientific meetings shall be held at such other time and place determined by the Executive Committee of the Global Network on Geospatial Health - GnosisGIS.

4. Membership is open to health workers and others who are actively interested in the advancement of geospatial health. There are four categories of membership

- i) Regular Members: available to health workers who are university or college graduates and who are directly engaged in research, advisory work or teaching concerned with geospatial health.
- ii) Student Members: available to graduate students and undergraduate students who are directly engaged in research, advisory work or teaching concerned with geospatial health.
- iii) Associate Members: The Executive Committee shall, at their discretion, have power to elect to associate membership persons of high reputation and accomplishment in the geospatial sciences not otherwise qualified for membership under Section 4.
- iv) Honorary Members: Candidates for honorary membership in the Global Network for

Geospatial Health may be:

- (a) nominated by the Executive Committee.
- (b) nominated by a named proposer and seconder.

Such nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the candidate and a description of his scientific activities. The nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least six months prior to the next conference of the network.

Honorary members are elected by the Executive Committee if at least 8 of the 10 committee members agree.

- v) Corporate Members: Available on invitation to companies, corporations and other organizations with an interest in medical applications of the geospatial sciences.
5. The routine business of the global network shall be transacted by an elected Executive Committee of 10 officers, consisting of a President, Secretary-Treasurer, 1st and 2nd Vice-President and 6 members. The election of the officers of the Executive Committee shall comply with the regulations laid down in Schedule 1. In addition, the Executive Committee shall include two 'ex-officio' members (1) the immediate Past-President (with vote) for a period of 4 years and (2) the Editor of *Geospatial Health* as advisor (without vote).
 6. The statutes of the network can be altered only by a majority decision and after at least one year's notice has been given of the proposed alteration. The regulations contained in Schedule 1 can be altered by a majority decision and after at least one year's notice has been given of the proposed alteration. The regulations contained in Schedule 1 can be altered by a majority decision at any time. Voting shall comply with the regulations laid down in Schedule 1.
 7. Affiliation of International, National or Local Societies with the Global Network for Geospatial Health - GnosisGIS.
 - i) Affiliation can be established on request by the President of the proposed affiliated organization and after approval by the Executive Committee of GnosisGIS.
 - ii) Affiliated Societies should not pay fees for the affiliation.
 - iii) A non-voting representative of the affiliated society can be invited to participate in the GnosisGIS Executive Committee meetings.
 - iv) Affiliated societies will receive information, newsletters, the *Geospatial Health* journal, geospatial databases and other materials deemed appropriate and if approved by the executive committee of GnosisGIS. The affiliated societies have to distribute this information to their members.
 - v) Affiliation of societies will be announced in *Geospatial Health* and the GnosisGIS web site. The affiliated societies will be listed in the List of Members of GnosisGIS.
 8. Termination Clause: If for any reason the Global Network for Geospatial Health is dissolved as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, any financial assets remaining in the network's accounts will be donated to an existing tax exempt organization that promotes public health policy and action (eg. Doctors Without Borders).

Schedule 1

Regulations for Procedure of the Global Network on Geospatial Health

A. Membership

1. Regular and student membership will be on individual basis.
2. Persons qualified under Section 4 (i, ii) of the Statutes may apply for membership by sending to the Secretary of the network in writing such a request, together with the applicant's full name, address, qualifications and special interests and the stated subscription fee.
3. Admission to the network shall be decided by vote of the Executive Committee.
4. The annual subscription of regular members shall be the equivalent of \$50.00 (USD) if from developed countries, \$25 if from less-developed countries and \$10 for student members and shall be due January 1 of each year. A year of grace in which to pay the subscription shall be allowed; thereafter membership shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
5. The annual subscription of Corporate Members shall be the equivalent of \$500 (U.S.) and shall be due January 1 of each year. Voting rights are not associated with this type of membership but it should carry such privileges as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

B. Election of Executive Committee

The Officers mentioned in Section 5 of the Statutes shall be elected by a postal ballot. However, in the event of an unforeseen vacancy the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a replacement to hold office until the expiry of the previous holder's office.

C. Regulations for Voting

1. Each regular member of the network shall be entitled to one vote.
2. Each elected officer will serve for 10 consecutive annual meetings of the network or for 10 years from the date of his election. Every 2 years the seats of the 2 officers who have held office for the longest period will become available for election.
3. Candidates may be:
 - (a) nominated by the Executive Committee:
 - (b) nominated by a named proposer and seconder. Such nomination must be accompanied by signed evidence of the willingness of the proposed nominee to stand for election.

All nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer by the 1st October of the year preceding the election.

4. Voting will be by postal ballot. The names of candidates and whether proposed by the Executive Committee or proposed and seconded by name members will be indicated on the ballot form. Members may vote for any two candidates or for one candidate.
5. Notification of the election results is the responsibility of the President and Secretary and must be made available to the members prior to the 1st December of the year of the election.
6. Only one member from any one country is eligible for election on any particular occasion. When more than two candidates from any one country stand for election, only the candidate receiving the most votes will be considered as eligible for election.
7. When two candidates tie for the second largest number of votes, the vote is determined by drawing lots by the Secretary in the presence of two witnesses.
8. Any committee member may be re-elected to the Committee although a period of 2 years must elapse before such re-election. The Secretary-Treasurer can be re-elected without the elapse of this period.
9. Every 4 years, the newly constituted Executive Committee will elect the President and Secretary-Treasurer, but each may continue to serve as a member of the Council until expiration of his/her term as an Executive Board member. No President may be re-elected to that office.