



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

REVISED STATUTES

6 March 2007

PREAMBLE

The African Network of Basin Organizations was established during the constitutive General Assembly, held in Dakar on 10 and 11 July 2002.

The creation of this Network is based on voluntary membership and aims to fill a marked gap in communication and exchanges of experience, expertise and know-how, between its members, related to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) per basin.

The African Network of Basin Organizations answers the need for coordination and strengthening of cooperation between African Organizations managing river, lake and aquifer basins and aims at grouping them together in the same representative umbrella organization. according to the directives defined by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), which coordinates water policy within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of the African Union, and in its support.

CLAUSE I: CREATION, DESIGNATION, WORKING LANGUAGES, OBJECT AND HEAD OFFICE

Article 1 – CREATION, DESIGNATION AND WORKING LANGUAGES

A non-profit association, referred to as « Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin » (RAOB) in French and « African Network of Basin Organisations » (ANBO) in English, is created for an unlimited period.

French and English are the two official working languages of the Network with possibly Portuguese and Arab when the need arises.

Article 2 – OBJECT AND MISSIONS

The Network objective is to promote Integrated Water Resource Management at the level of river, lake and aquifer basins, as an essential tool for sustainable development.

In this objective, the African Network of River Basin Organizations endeavours:

- a) to develop co-operation between the organizations in charge of integrated water resource management and to favour exchange of experiences and expertise among them;
- b) to participate actively in policy formulation and implementation, bringing in experience of practice, as well as to carry out diagnostics, analysis enabling the harmonization of policy, strategies and practices at national level, as well as the level of basins and sub-basins;
- c) to promote and strengthen existing organizations and to encourage the creation of new basin organizations;
- d) to facilitate development of tools suitable for institutional and financial management, for knowledge and monitoring of water resources, for the organization of data bases, for the concerted preparation of master plans and action programmes in the medium and long term;
- e) to strengthen and network the existing documentation and information centres of the member organizations, to produce, exchange, synthesize and disseminate knowledge and know-how of IWRM, in collaboration with their regional and international partners and to support the creation of new water-related documentation and information systems in the organizations which have none.

- f) to develop information and train officers and personnel of basin organizations and water sector administrations and to promote populations' education on these issues, to carry out studies and to prepare educational material ;
- g) to promote IWRM principles per basin in international co-operation programmes;
- h) to evaluate actions initiated by the member organizations and disseminate their results;
- i) to organize joint activities of regional interest between its members and to support their actions in obtaining finance, in particular;
- j) to support the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), to meet its specific requests on management per basin and implement its orientations in this field.

African Network of Basin Organizations facilitates and strengthens, particularly within the International Network of Basin Organizations, the connection between its members and the basin organizations of other continents and participates to international joint activities, aiming to develop IWRM, which it implements in Africa.

Article 3 – ASSOCIATION HEAD OFFICE

Its head office is that of the Secretariat: it is located in Dakar (Senegal) at the High Commission's Headquarters of ODSR (OMVS). It may be transferred to another location upon decision of the General Assembly.

Any moving of the head office shall result in a similar moving of the Secretariat.

CLAUSE II : MEMBERS

Article 4 – MEMBER CATEGORIES

The Network is opened to all basin organizations and to government administrations of Africa in charge of water resource management, as well as other partners and concerned actors.

The African Network is made up, through voluntary membership, of the following organizations:

- **Core Members:**

- “Basin Organizations”, this implies organizations which have been entrusted by governments with integrated water resource management at the level of river basins, either national or trans-boundary, as well as the co-operation bodies they have developed among them;

- **Associate Members:**

- Government administrations in charge of water management in all African countries which apply or are interested in applying integrated and sustainable water resource management at the level of river, lake and aquifer basins;
- Bilateral and multilateral co-operation agencies supporting activities related to integrated and sustainable water resource management at the level of river basins in the Region;

- **Observers:**

- Civil Society organizations involved in integrated water resource management per basin in Africa, or other organizations interested in ANBO objectives.

Member Organizations of ANBO are also INBO members, if they request it.

Article 5 –ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

The candidates, belonging to one of the above-mentioned categories, become members of the African Network as soon as they have applied to enter the Network and have been approved by the Bureau, who informs the next General Assembly.

Only core members are subject to membership fees. Their subscription must be up to date. Other members can give voluntary contributions.

Article 6 – LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is lost:

- through resignation;
- through cessation of the activity justifying the membership;
- or through the striking off decided by the General Assembly on proposal of the Bureau for non-payment of the annual fee or on serious grounds, when all recourse planned for in the internal rules are to no avail.

CLAUSE III : ORGANIZATION

Article 7 - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The institutional framework is made up of the General Assembly, Presidency, Coordination Bureau and Permanent Technical Secretariat.

Article 8 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is made up of all members of the African Network of River Basin Organizations.

The General Assembly is chaired by the Network President and its agenda is prepared by the Coordination Bureau.

INBO President and Permanent Technical Secretary are invited to participate in the Network General Assembly.

Qualified personalities or interested organizations may also be invited to meetings by the Chairman or members of the host country of the General Assembly.

Upon the Network President's request, the General Assembly convenes in an ordinary meeting every two (2) years, or in an extraordinary meeting.

The General Assembly is convened either on the President's initiative, or upon the request of the Bureau, or upon the request of simple majority, or upon President of AMCOW or INBO request.

On proposal of the Bureau, the General Assembly approves:

- the orientations for the Network's activities and budget;
- the joint projects and, whenever necessary, designates the member organization(s) entrusted with their implementation;
- the accounts of the association prepared by the Bureau;
- the financial rules and financial audits;
- the annual membership fees; the statutes of the Network and their amendments;
- the content of the "Declaration of Membership" and its modifications.

The General Assembly elects the members of the Coordination Bureau among the core members and according to the process given in clause 9. It designates a financial Auditor.

The President reports on resolutions taken by the General Assembly to the President of AMCOW as well as to the President of INBO. The President also reports to the General Assembly the decisions taken by the sessions of AMCOW.

The decisions made by the General Assembly are adopted by consensus of the attending core members. When a consensus cannot be reached, the President may request a vote as a last resort.

When a vote is necessary, the decisions are adopted with a simple majority of the attending or represented core members.

However, a two-third majority of the attending or represented core members is needed when the vote concerns the statutes or the content of the «Declaration of Membership».

Each core member has one vote. In case of a tie, the President has a casting vote.

A member may represent only one other member and only with a written mandate from the latter.

Article 9 – COORDINATION BUREAU

The Bureau is made up of : the serving President of the African Network, the former President, the Network Permanent Secretary, the AMCOW representative, as well as other members chosen among the member organizations, representing the five regions of the African continent.

Its composition may be revised during each Ordinary General Assembly depending on the new members.

INBO President and/or Permanent Technical Secretary as well as representatives of the Regional Water Partnerships (GWP) of Africa are invited to participate in the meetings of the Bureau. The Network President may also invite to these meetings representatives of bi and multilateral organizations which jointly carry out actions with the Network.

The ANBO Coordination Bureau designates representatives from African Basin Organizations on the INBO Liaison Bureau and on AMCOW-TAC.

The Bureau members are elected during each Ordinary General Assembly:

The core members nominate among them, the members who represent them at the Bureau. The General Assembly makes decisions regarding these proposals. Each proposed organization designates its representatives.

The Bureau is chaired by the President of the Network; it holds at least one meeting every year.

The Bureau:

- prepares the meetings of the General Assemblies and approves their agenda,
- carries out the decisions made by the General Assemblies and co-ordinates joint projects;
- approves the admission of new members,
- prepares the accounts of the association and proposes them to the General Assembly for approval;
- examines the draft report on activities and presents it to the General Assembly for approval.

It adopts decisions by consensus of its attending members. When a consensus cannot be reached, the President requests a vote to obtain the majority of the attending members. The President has a casting vote.

The Coordination Bureau may appoint any technical commissions for the execution of specific tasks.

The ANBO Coordination Bureau serves as an advisory body to AMCOW concerning the Basin Organizations, in order to maximize opportunities for synergy and interrelation between the two institutions.

Article 10 – THE PRESIDENT

The Presidency is assured by a basin organization core member, which designs a President. The President is elected by the General Assembly at an ordinary session, for a non renewable term of two (2) years. The President represents the Network up to the next meeting of the General Assembly, convenes the General Assembly and proposes its agenda, ascertains that the recommendations of the General Assembly are carried out with the support of the Bureau and the Secretariat, the work of which it organizes, makes sure that the decisions of the Bureau are carried out.

The African Network President participates as full member at the INBO General Assembly.

Article 11 – THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Network is the executive body of the Coordination Bureau and is designated by the General Assembly for four (4) renewable years on proposal of the Bureau.

In this capacity, and under the President's authority, the Permanent Technical Secretariat is responsible for:

- preparing the documents needed for the meetings of the Bureau and General Assemblies, especially the agendas, provisional budgets and draft recommendations;
- writing the reports of the statutory meetings;
- directing the Network and following up the implementation of joint projects in close co-operation with the members designated by the Bureau or the General Assembly to this effect, whenever necessary;
- permanent links with AMCOW.

The Secretariat representative participates in the meetings of the General Assembly and Bureau. The Permanent Secretariat is executed by one Basin Organisation, designated by the General Assembly, which mobilises the human resources and equipment needed for carrying out these tasks.

The Secretary of the African Network has the right to participate in the meetings of the INBO Bureau and the INBO General Assembly. He ensures permanent co-ordination with the INBO Permanent Technical Secretary.

CLAUSE IV: RESOURCES

Article 12 – RESOURCES

The financial resources of the Network include:

- annual subscription fees;
- subsidies from administrations and public organisations;
- funding from bi and multilateral co-operation agencies;
- the income generated by service providing and the sale of documents;
- the financial contributions requested from participants to attend events organised by ANBO;
- grants and legacies.

In order to finance its specific activities, the African Network may directly request financial resources from central and local administrations of the countries concerned and from bi and multilateral co-operation agencies. It informs the AMCOW Secretariat and the INBO Liaison Bureau of these requests for financing and receives their support to obtain the corresponding finance from donors.

ANBO Liaison Bureau animates co-ordinates and supports the requests for financing made by the African Network.

The African Network accountancy is in compliance with the official accounting system of the host country of the Secretariat.

INBO supports, as well as possible and according to its priorities, the activities of the African Network of River Basin Organizations, and in the first place, the implementation of INBO common actions and programmes in the region and promotes exchange of information and experience with the other Regional Networks.

CLAUSE V: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL CLAUSES

Article 13 - RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL REGULATION

The present Statutes are completed by financial regulation established by the Coordination Bureau and approved by the General Assembly.

Article 14 – TERMINATION OF THE NETWORK

The winding up of the African Network can be decided by a General Assembly, through the voting of at least two-thirds of the members, either attending or represented, and representing at least half of the African Network members having paid their annual fee.

In such a case, this Assembly will designate one or several liquidators and the assets, if there are any, will be devolved to AMCOW or to the member organisations of the Region

Clause 15 - TRANSPARENCY

The statutes and any amendment brought are notified and transmitted to the Authorities of the host country of the secretariat within three months after their approval.

Yearly accounts are checked by the auditor, whose task is to certify that they are in order and straightforward and that they provide a clear picture of the tasks implemented during the financial year. The auditor's report is presented to the General Assembly before the yearly accounts are approved.

Clause 16 - DISPUTES

Any dispute arising between Network members or between the Network and one member will be settled out of court or, if need be, by the relevant Courts of the country hosting the Network Secretariat.

Article 17 - COMING INTO FORCE

The present statutes come into force after their adoption by the General Assembly.

Article 18: REVISION

Any proposition of amendments on the Statutes coming from a member of the Network, should be addressed to the Permanent Technical Secretary, who will then send it to other members within a period of thirty (30) days following reception.

Comments on the amendments propositions would have to be sent to the Secretary within a period of thirty (30) days following.

At the expiration of this period, the Bureau proposes to the General Assembly the amendments propositions and the comments.

Any amendment to the present Statutes should be adopted by the General Assembly before being put to application.

**Written in Dakar on 10 July 2002
Modified in Johannesburg on 6 March 2007**

FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The President