**CONSTITUTION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AFRICA**

**NAME AND REGISTRATION**

1. The Society shall be named the Geological Society of Africa, hereinafter referred to as the Society and abbreviated GSAf.
2. For financial and legal purposes the Society shall be formally registered as a not-profit scientific organisation within Africa.

**PROPERTIES AND DOCUMENTS**

1. The Society is the sole custodian of all documents and other properties rightfully belonging to it.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. The objectives of the Society are to:
* Promote the advancement of the geological sciences in Africa by encouraging and supporting geoscience research, education and training; the establishment of national societies; and through the organisation of conferences and other meetings.
* Promote the sustainable and environmentally sensitive development of the mineral, water and hydrocarbon resources of the continent and the wider applications of geoscience to improve the socio-economic conditions and quality of life of the African peoples.
* Facilitate communication and cooperation among members and other relevant organisations.
* Serve as a channel for the expression of views of African geoscientists and to investigate and report on matters of general interest to them.
* Encourage the highest standards of professional competence and ethical conduct in the practice of geoscience in Africa.
* Seek the preservation of important geological sites in Africa.
* Publish a regular newsletter, maintain an active website, and encourage and sponsor publications on African geoscience.

**MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership of the Society shall be open to all those interested in the geosciences and their applications to development in Africa. It shall comprise the following categories:
* Ordinary Member
* Associate Member
* Life Member
* Institutional Member
* Fellow
* Honorary Member

Application for election to membership of the Society, or continued membership thereof, shall signify acceptance of the standards of professional responsibilities as set out in the Constitution of the Society.

1. Ordinary membership is open to all those interested in the geosciences and their applications to development in Africa. It is not restricted to practising geoscientists or those holding formal geoscience qualifications. Ordinary Members whose fees are paid-up have full voting rights.
2. Associate membership is open to any student pursuing a degree course in geoscience at a recognised university or other higher educational institute. Associate Members do not have voting rights.
3. Life membership is open to Ordinary Members of good standing who have made commendable contribution to the Society. Applications are subject to the approval of a majority of the Council. Life Members shall have full voting rights.
4. Institutional membership is available to national and international organisations that are involved in activities in Africa that accord with the Society's objectives. Empowered representative of Institutional Members have full voting rights.
5. Fellows of the Society shall be distinguished geoscientists or else shall have a distinguished record in the public or private sectors in the application and advancement of geoscience in Africa. The award of Fellowship is subject to the approval of a majority of the Council. Fellows shall have full voting rights.
6. Honorary membership may be offered at the discretion of a majority of the Council to long-serving members of the Society who have contributed valuably to the prosecution of the Society's objectives. Honorary membership may also be offered at the discretion of a majority of the Council to selected non-members of the Society who nevertheless have demonstrated significant support of the Society at national or international level. Honorary membership does not confer voting rights.
7. Applications for Ordinary, Associate and Institutional membership shall be made in writing or by completing the Society's membership application form and submitting it, with the appropriate membership dues, to any member of Council. Election to membership for all categories shall not take place until the membership dues have been paid at the rates then in force and approved by the General Assembly.
8. Nominations for Fellowship of the Society, supported by a brief resume, shall be submitted to the Secretary General at least three (3) months prior to a General Assembly of the Society, for consideration by Council. The Council will submit its recommendation(s) to the General Assembly for approval. The membership dues for Fellows shall be the same as those for Ordinary Members then in force.
9. Any member may resign by giving notice in writing to the Secretary General. No refund of membership dues will be made.
10. Membership of the Society may be withdrawn if the membership dues are not paid for three (3) consecutive years.
11. The Council of the Society may terminate membership for unprofessional behaviour by any member that is detrimental to the image of the Society. The member shall be notified of any proposal to terminate the membership and shall be given not less than three (3) months notice of the Council's intention to consider termination at any meeting of the Council. An appeal may be lodged within three (3) months of the notification of the result of the Council's decision. The appeal shall be considered by the Immediate Past President or his nominee and by two (2) persons who shall not be Council members, one being chosen by the Council, the other by the appellant. The decision shall be final and binding on both parties.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

1. Membership fees shall be recommended by Council for approval by the membership at each General Assembly of the Society.
2. Dues shall be paid in advance for each year and are due on 1 January. Dues may be paid at the discretion of the Member for more than one (1) year in advance at the rates approved by the General Assembly.

**OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY**

1. The Society is led by a Council elected by the voting members (Ordinary, Life, Fellow and Institutional) at a General Assembly. The Council consists of an Executive, which comprises a President, a Secretary General and an Honorary Treasurer, supported by five (5) Vice-Presidents, an Assistant Secretary General, and five (5) Councillors. The Immediate Past-President also sits on the Council for one further term.
2. The President of the Society shall have a distinguished professional record in any field of geoscience. He should have a responsible position that can guarantee the necessary administrative support for the activities of the Society.
3. The Vice-President shall have the same qualifications as the President. Each Vice-President shall be based in and shall represent a geographic region of Africa (Northern, Western, Central, Eastern and Southern).
4. The Secretary General should be a practising geoscientist. He/she should hold a position that can provide necessary administrative support to enable him to carry out his tasks efficiently.
5. The Assistant Secretary General should have the same qualifications as the Secretary General.
6. The Honorary Treasurer shall be a responsible person, preferably with a geoscience background and fully supportive of the Society's objectives.
7. The General Assembly shall have the power to elect a qualified auditor to carry out periodic audits of the Society's finances.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY**

1. The Council, through its Executive, shall be responsible for the operation and management of the Society's affairs in accordance with the Constitution and shall report at regular intervals to the General Assembly which is the Society's highest authority. All members of the Council shall have a deliberative vote at meetings of the Council. The President shall have a casting vote.
2. The President shall be the spokesperson and official representative of the Society and shall assume overall responsibility for its operation. He/she shall preside over the meetings of the Society and of the Council. In his/her absence the most senior Vice-President present, in the order of his/her election shall deputise for the President.
3. The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible for promoting the Society and implementing its policies and activities within their geographic regions. They shall liaise closely with the President and work closely with the Councillors based within their regions.
4. The Secretary General shall maintain records of the meetings of the Society and of the Council and a roll of membership of the Society. The Secretary General, in consultation with the President, shall convene meetings of the Society and shall report on the operations of the Society at all meetings including the General Assembly. He/she shall in addition perform other functions as may be assigned to him/her by the Council.
5. The Assistant Secretary General shall assist the Secretary General in the discharge of his/her duties and in the absence of the Secretary General, shall assume his/her duties. He may also be called upon by the Executive to undertake other tasks and duties as required for the efficient running of the Society.
6. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible to the Society through the Council for the financial administration of the Society. He/she shall keep a correct account of all funds received and expended by the Society and shall prepare at the end of each calendar year a balance sheet and statement of account for that year.
7. The Council shall appoint an Editor responsible for the publication and distribution of the Society's newsletter and other documents. The Editor or other Council member shall assume responsibility for maintaining the Society’s website.
8. The five (5) Councillors shall assist the Executive and the Vice-Presidents in promoting the activities and addressing the objectives of the Society in their own countries or regions. These responsibilities shall include encouraging the establishment of and liaison with national geological societies and associations.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

1. a. Candidates for election to the Council shall have been bona-fide fully paid-up Ordinary or Life Members active in Society affairs for at least four (4) years in order to become eligible.

b. If necessary and useful for the society, members of the council who have served the two term period can be re-elected to another council position.

1. All posts are open to competition by qualified members. Elections to the Council shall take place every four (4) years at a General Assembly of the Society. The elected officers are eligible and can be re-elected to serve for one further term of four (4) years in the same or a different position. The maximum period that shall be served by a member of the Society on the Council shall be eight (8) years except in the case of the President who may serve on the Council for two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms, followed by one term of two (2) years as the Immediate Past-President of the Society.
2. Eligible candidates seeking election to the Council shall be nominated by at least two (2) members of the Society. The nominations shall be received by the Secretary General at least three (3) months before the General Assembly, circulated by him/her to the member countries through the Vice-Presidents and Councillors and posted on the Society website. Where there is more than one nomination for a position on the Council, the election of officers shall be by ballot of Members present at the General Assembly, excluding Associate and Honorary Members, with the proviso that no more than one (1) representative from a country can be elected to or hold office on the Council at any one time. In the event that no nominations for individual posts are received, the current Council shall endeavour to identify suitable candidates to present to the General Assembly for approval.
3. The Council shall have power to fill any vacancies that may arise on the Council by co-opting paid-up members of the Society.

**STATUTORY MEETINGS**

1. The Society shall hold key meetings every two years, at venues located if possible, in Africa and elsewhere. The meetings in Africa will combine the Society’s International Conference with the Colloquium of African Geology (CAG) and the venues shall rotate in sequence through the geographic regions of the continent recognised by the Society. The meetings held outside Africa shall be presented as Colloquia of African Geology. General Assemblies of the Society will be held at each of the two-yearly events, with formal elections of officers being held every four (4) years during the meetings in Africa.
2. The Council shall meet immediately following its election by the General Assembly and again at the start of the following International Conference and/or Colloquium of the Society, to finalise the arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly. At least one other intervening meeting of the Council shall be held during the Council's term of office. The President, in consultation with other members of the Council may at any time call a special meeting of the Council.
3. The General Assembly shall approve the time and venue of the Society's next two meetings. The combined International Conference -Colloquium of African Geology held in Africa shall rotate in sequence through the geographic regions recognised by the Society. The Council shall authorise the establishment of a local organising committee consisting of a chairman, a secretary and at least four other persons to take on the organisation of the meetings.
4. If the Council in office fails to call a General Assembly for more than three (3) years any twenty-five (25) Ordinary and Life Members of the Society drawn from at least ten (10) African countries can call for its dissolution. An interim committee shall be formed and this Committee shall call a General Assembly and election of a new Council within six (6) months of the dissolution.
5. Extraordinary General Meetings may be convened by the Council when need arises, subject to three (3) months advance notice being given to the Society membership.

**QUORUM**

1. The quorum of the Council shall be five (5) members. The quorum at the General Assembly for the purpose of conducting Society business and the election of Council members, and at extraordinary meetings of the Society, shall be twenty-five (25) voting Ordinary, Fellow, Life and Institutional members.

**PUBLICATIONS**

1. The Society, under the charge of the Editor, shall produce a bi-annual newsletter, distributed to all members, which will contain news items relating to the activities of the Society and to geoscience and its applications in Africa and other regions. The newsletter and other information of relevance and interest to members will also be posted on the Society’s website.
2. The Society, through the local organising committee, will publish the proceedings of its biennial international conferences. It may do this in collaboration with other geoscience publishers.
3. The Council may authorise other publications, occasional or otherwise, and may decide upon the format and periodicity of such publications. It may do this in collaboration with other geoscience publishers.

**COMMITTEES**

1. The Council shall establish Committees whereby the council members shall take responsibility for the running of the affairs of the Society. Membership to these committees will be open to fully paid up members of the Society.

**AMENDMENTS**

1. GSAf Membership obliges a Member to conduct himself/herself in a professional, manner at all times. The Code of Professional Conduct and Disciplinary Action (‘the Code’) details the expected minimum acceptable professional standards applicable to all members.

. The Code deals with the following types of misconduct:

1. professional misconduct;
2. unsatisfactory professional performance;
3. conduct likely to bring GSAf into disrepute or reflect adversely on the Society

 In case of a misconduct the GSAf will suspend or cancel a Member’s Membership and if deemed appropriate, to investigate and initiate judiciary measures against the alleged offender."

1. Upon joining GSAF, Members sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the Constitution, the Code, in addition to the Other Rules. The Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly after receiving recommended amendments from the Council. Proposed amendments by paid up voting members shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary General no less than three (3) months prior to the start of the Society's General Assembly.