

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GHANA SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
(GSA)
(As approved and adopted on 8th August 2007)**

PREAMBLE:

In the name of God Almighty; from whom all authority is derived and to whom it must be referred;

We, the members of the Ghana Science Association hereinafter known as the “Association” in our bid to encourage scientific, technological and mathematical research and how it would impact positively on the socio-economic and cultural development of Ghana;

Desiring to promote the understanding of all aspects of science, technology and mathematics through teaching, learning, research, information dissemination and other ways of popularizing science;

Hoping to help in demystifying science as a subject and improve attraction to its study and choice as a career by young Ghanaians;

Cognisant of the fact that no country can see any meaningful and sustainable development without the study and application of science and mathematics and

Desiring to change radically the status quo;

And in solemn declaration and affirmation of our commitment to the principles of total honesty in pursuit of science and mathematics and preservation of independence and fundamental rights and freedom of members of the Association;

DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY ENACT, ADOPT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES, THIS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1.0 NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association shall be called The Ghana Science Association (GSA)

ARTICLE 2.0 STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

2.1 The Association shall be organised at National and Branch Levels.

2.2 The National Headquarters of the Association shall be in Accra.

ARTICLE 3.0 AIMS

The aims of the Association shall be:-

- 3.1 to encourage scientific, technological, mathematical research and its application to national development in Ghana;
- 3.2 to promote the understanding of all aspects of Science, Technology, and Mathematics through teaching, research and other ways of popularising science and technology and in so doing encourage the usage of the scientific approach in everyday life;
- 3.3 to help formulate national policy in science and technology;
- 3.4 to seek the welfare of scientists, technologists, and mathematicians;
- 3.5 to foster co-operative links with other national and international organisations;
- 3.6 to affiliate with similar bodies in African States and elsewhere.

ARTICLE 4.0 AFFILIATION

- 4.1 The Association shall be affiliated to local and International Scientific and/or Technological Organisation that the National Executive Committee may from time to time decide;
- 4.2 Any scientific and/or technological organisation can in turn apply to be affiliated to the Association. Such application, stating the aims of the organisation, shall be made to the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 5.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership shall be open to all practitioners of pure and applied sciences and technology, e.g. Mathematicians, Engineers, Medical-practitioners, Science Teachers, Surveyors, Research Scientists and any person interested in the advancement of science, technology and mathematics.

5.2 Full Members

Those who have recognised qualification in pure and applied science, engineering, medicine and mathematics or any other qualification, which the National Executive Committee may from time to time approve, shall become full members, on application to a Branch Secretary. They shall remain full members so long as they continue to pay such annual subscription as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

5.3 Life Members

Life Membership shall be conferred on full members who pay 10 years' subscription in advance

5.3 Student Members

Students from recognised institutions are eligible to become members of the Association.

5.4 Honorary Members

Ghanaians who have been a source of inspiration or distinguished benefactors to the Association may be invited by the National Executive Committee to be honorary members. Non-Ghanaians may also be so honoured.

5.5 Associate Members

Associate Membership shall be open to persons who the National Executive Committee may approve. Associate Members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Association and receive such other privileges as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. They shall pay such dues as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

5.6 **Corporate Members**

Corporate Membership shall be open to firms, institutions and other bodies, which the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. They shall pay such dues as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

5.7 **Patrons**

Individuals/corporate bodies who have distinguished themselves in science, technology, mathematics and other careers may be invited to serve as patrons of the Association.

ARTICLE 6.0 RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS

6.1 Members of all categories shall have the right to attend meetings of the Association.

6.2 Only Full and Life Members may vote in the election of officers of the Association.

6.3 Only Full and Life Members shall be eligible to serve as officers or as members of the National and Branch Executive Committees.

6.4 Full, Life, Honorary and Corporate members shall receive such publications as the National Executive Committee may approve.

ARTICLE 7.0 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1 The National Officers of the Association shall be the National President, the National Secretary and the National Treasurer

7.2 Branch Officers shall consist of Branch President, Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer.

7.3 National Officers shall not be officers of a Branch.

ARTICLE 8.0 TENURE OF OFFICE OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

The National Officers shall hold office for a term of two years. They shall be eligible for re-election for one term only.

In the event of death or resignation or removal of an officer before the end of his term of office, a member may be appointed to the National Executive Committee, from the Branch from which the member was elected, to act in that office till the end of the term.

ARTICLE 9.0 THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9.1 The National Executive Committee shall be made up of the following: -

- i) The National President;
- ii) The National Vice-Presidents or representative from branch executive - being the Presidents of Branches of the Association.
- iii) The immediate past National President
- iv) Editor-in-chief of the JGSA and ESS
- v) The National Secretary;
- vi) The National Treasurer;

The National Executive Committee shall have powers to co-opt such persons, as it deems fit to serve on the National Executive Committee, especially from affiliated groups and such coopted members shall have no voting rights.

9.2 **QUORUM**

The quorum for the National Executive Committee shall be half the membership including either the National President or National Secretary.

ARTICLE 10.0 DUTIES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

10.1 The National President

The National President shall preside over all meetings of the Association at the national level and shall sign the minutes book. He/She shall prepare biennial report for the consideration of the Association at the Biennial General Meeting and have a casting vote.

10.2 The National Secretary

The National Secretary shall have oversight responsibility for writing minutes of all meetings, deal with correspondence, convene meetings in consultation with the President, organise various activities of the Association and ensure active functioning of the Association at the national level. All letters on behalf of the Association other than internal ones shall be signed by the Secretary/President

10.3 The National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall have oversight responsibility for the finances and accounts of the Association. He/She shall oversee the preparation of a Bank Account on behalf of the Association and, together with the National President, National Secretary, or the office Accountant sign all cheques. He/She shall oversee the preparation of a biennial balance sheet and supervise the financial affairs of the Association.

ARTICLE 11 DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The National Executive Committee shall meet at least two times in a year, to

11.1 formulate such policies as may advance the aims of the Association;

11.2 prepare a national budget for the Association

- 11.3 approve budgets for Branches;
- 11.4 consider such matters as may be referred to it by the Branches, or by 40 paid up members.

ARTICLE 12.0 ELECTIONS AND HANDING OVER

- 12.1 The National President and the National Secretary shall be elected from that Branch in which the next Biennial Conference shall be held. The National Treasurer shall be elected from the Accra Branch. The National Treasurer may hold office for two consecutive terms only.
- 12.2 Nominations shall be called for at least 30 days before the biennial General Meeting.
- 12.3 Nominations shall be signed by the proposer, seconder and by the person nominated to indicate that he is willing to serve.
- 12.4 All proposals shall be circulated to all voting members at least 10 days before the first day of the Biennial General Meeting.
- 12.5 In the event of absence of nominations for any vacancy before the Biennial General Meeting by the appropriate dateline, nominations may be invited at the General Meeting.
- 12.6 Voting shall be by secret ballot. Members may vote by post or by proxy.
- 12.7 Two scrutineers shall be elected at the Biennial General Meeting to supervise the voting.
- 12.8 Handing over to New Executive Officers shall be done within six weeks after elections.

12.9 A formal handing over notes and minutes of AGM shall be prepared by the outgoing executive officers and handed to the new officers.

ARTICLE 13.0 MEETINGS

13.1 The Association shall meet at least once every two years to read papers, conduct elections, and to consider any matters of interest consistent with the aims of the Association at such a time as the National Executive Committee may decide. The venue shall rotate amongst the branches in succession.

13.2 The quorum for the General Meeting shall be 20% of the total paid up membership or 40 members whichever is lower.

13.3 An Emergency General Meeting shall be called on receipt by the National Executive, of signatures of either 40 paid up members or 20% of the total paid up membership, whichever is lower. Such a meeting shall be called within 30 days of receipt of such notice.

ARTICLE 14.0 SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The day-to-day operation of the Association will be carried out by the secretariat composed of the following:

- Scientific Coordinator
- Scientific Administrative Officer
- Financial Officer
- Administrative Assistant
- Accounts Assistant/Clerk

Any other staff that NEC may consider necessary from time-to-time. Staff of the secretariat shall be appointed by NEC.

ARTICLE 15.0 PUBLICATIONS

15.1 The official organ of publication of the Association shall be the Ghana Journal of Ghana Science Association (JGSA) the Everyday Science for Schools (ESS) and any other publication as the National Executive Committee may authorise.

15.2 The Editor-in-chief of the Ghana Journal of Ghana Science Association (JGSA) and Everyday Science for Schools (ESS) shall be elected by National Executive Committee and hold office for two years. They shall be eligible for re-election for one term only.

ARTICLE 16.0 BIENNIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNT

The National Treasurer shall present reports and audited statements of accounts at the Biennial General Meeting (BGM).

ARTICLE 17.0 BRANCHES

17.1 The Branches shall be made up of paid up members within a region or zone.

17.2 The Branches shall meet at least two times in a year to read papers, to hold discussions or to organise any other activities that will advance the course of the Association.

17.3 The Branches shall hold a General Meeting once every two years to elect officers. Elected officers shall be eligible for re-election for one term only.

ARTICLE 18.0 BYE-LAWS

Branches of the Association shall draw up their own bye-laws within the spirit of this constitution.

ARTICLE 19.0 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer or member of the National Executive Committee who absents himself/herself from three consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation as determined by the National Executive Committee, shall automatically cease to be a member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 20.0 WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member who acts in any way prejudicial to the interest of the Association shall, after due consideration by the National Executive Committee, have his membership withdrawn, through a General Meeting.

ARTICLE 21.0 FUNDS

- 21.1 The funds of the Association shall consist of government subventions, registration fees, dues, annual subscription, donations, proceeds from special functions/fundraising.
- 21.2 The funds shall be deposited in the name of the Association in a Bank approved by the National Executive Committee.
- 21.3 The National Executive Committee shall each year allocate funds for the running of the Branch activities, and for its own activities.
- 21.4 The total funds available for Branch activities shall be disbursed to the branches in proportion to their paid up membership.
- 21.5 In special cases, the National Executive Committee may allocate extra funds to a Branch Association.

ARTICLE 22.0 DUES

Each member shall pay the prescribed dues approved by Biennial General meeting from time to time through direct debit.

ARTICLE 23.0 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

23.1 Any proposal for an amendment to the constitution shall be submitted through a Branch to reach the National Executive Committee at least 30 days before the next Biennial General Meeting.

23.2 The National Executive Committee shall circulate the proposals among members at least 10 days before the General Meeting.

23.3 The amendment shall be carried by at least two-thirds majority of paid up members, present at the General Meeting, provided the minimum requirement for a quorum is satisfied.

ARTICLE 24.0 DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In the event of the Association being dissolved, after all other commitments have been met, the balance of funds remaining shall be used as far as possible, to return to Life Members the unexpired portion of their life membership subscription.

August, 2007