



## STATUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION

### Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent (RINDHCA)

	<b>CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>
<b>NAME</b>	<p><b>Article 1. Name</b></p> <p>A not-for-profit civil association with the name <b>Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent</b> is incorporated under the provisions of the <b>laws of the Republic of Panama</b>; it will have legal personality regardless of its <b>members</b>.</p> <p>For all matters not provided for in these Statutes, the legislation of Panama and any other applicable legislation will be applied.</p> <p>The acronym (<b>RINDHCA</b>) is to be used to identify the Association.</p> <p>For purposes of this document the Association hereby incorporated will be referred to as <b>the Network</b>.</p> <p>For purposes of this document the national human rights institutions that are members according to these Statutes will be referred to as <b>Members</b>.</p>
<b>TERM</b>	<p><b>Article 2. Term</b></p> <p>The term of the Network <b>will be indefinite</b>.</p>
<b>DOMICILE</b>	<p><b>Article 3. Domicile</b></p> <p>The domicile of the Network <b>will be in Panama, but delegations may be opened abroad</b>.</p>

	<b>CHAPTER II AIMS AND ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<p><b>Article 4. Objectives</b></p> <p>The Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent is the <b>grouping of national institutions of the Americas</b>, set up according to the Paris Principles, with the <b>objective of cooperating</b> directly with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.</p>
<b>AIMS</b>	<p><b>Article 5. Aims</b></p> <p>The aims of the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, maintain and promote a culture of respect for human rights in the region.</li> <li>• Reinforce recognition and application of the commitments and international standards on human rights by the governments of the region.</li> <li>• Contribute to the democratic development of the countries in the region, helping to consolidate government policies on human rights.</li> <li>• Promote working together to strengthen, individually and collectively, the national human rights institutions of the Americas set up in accordance with the Paris Principles.</li> <li>• Support the creation and development of national human rights institutions in other countries in the region.</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<p><b>Article 6. Activities</b></p> <p>In order to achieve the aims the following activities, among others, will be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchanging information between <b>member institutions</b>.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building institutional capacities.</li> <li>• Working together on themes of common interest.</li> <li>• Exchanging experiences.</li> <li>• Creating regional strategies.</li> <li>• Holding regular meetings.</li> <li>• Early and efficient cooperation with other national human rights institutions concerning requests for information about possible human rights violations of their compatriots in an American country.</li> <li>• When possible, respond with human resources and other types of support to requests from the governments and/or national parliamentary bodies of the region to assist in establishing and strengthening the national human rights institutions in the region.</li> <li>• Ensure regular contact with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international organisations responsible for protecting and promoting human rights.</li> <li>• Without prejudice to the foregoing in this Article, it can carry out all other activities necessary to achieve its goal.</li> </ul>
	<b>CHAPTER III</b> <b>GOVERNING BODIES AND OPERATION</b>
<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<b>Article 7.</b> The <b>governing bodies</b> of the Network are the General Meeting and the Coordination Committee. The <b>Permanent Technical Secretariat</b> will function as <b>supporting body</b> to the abovementioned governing bodies.
<b>NAMES OF THE NETWORK'S GOVERNING BODIES</b>	<b>Article 8. Names</b> For the purposes of this Statute, the following names will be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coordination Committee</b> for the Network's Management Board.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secretariat General</b> for the <b>Presidency</b> of the Management Board.</li> </ul>
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	<p><b>Article 9. General Meeting</b></p> <p>The General Meeting is the association's highest governing body, <b>made up of all full members of the Network.</b></p> <p>The <b>General Meeting</b> will elect from its full <b>members</b> the <b>Coordination Committee</b> of the Network, which will operate for a period of <b>two years, eligible to be reelected only for one further</b> period.</p>
<b>MEETING TYPES</b>	<p><b>Article 10. Meetings may be Ordinary or Extraordinary</b></p> <p>The <b>Ordinary Meeting</b> will be held at least once a year, when half plus one of its <b>members</b> are present.</p> <p>Extraordinary Meetings will be held when the circumstances so prescribe, in the opinion of the <b>Secretariat General</b>, when the Coordination Committee so agrees or when proposed in writing by a third of the members.</p>
<b>MEETING NOTICES</b>	<p><b>Article 11. Meeting Notices</b></p> <p>Notices of General Meetings, both ordinary and extraordinary, will be sent by the <b>Secretariat General</b> with at least <b>15 days' notice.</b></p> <p>The notices will be sent by any means that allows for reliable communication; virtual and remote mechanisms (e.g., email, telephone) may be used, stating the place, date and time of the meeting, and the agenda specifically indicating the matters to be covered.</p>
<b>QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS</b>	<p><b>Article 12. Adoption of Agreements</b></p> <p>A General Meeting, whether ordinary or extraordinary, will be <b>validly constituted</b> when <b>half plus one</b> of its members are present.</p> <p><b>The agreements</b> will be adopted by <b>half plus one of the institutions</b> present or represented.</p>

	<p><b>A majority of two thirds of the institutions</b> present or represented is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Dissolve</b> the Network.</li> <li>b) <b>Amend the Statutes</b>, including change of registered office.</li> <li>c) <b>Dispose of or alienate</b> assets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>POWERS</b></p>	<p><b>Article 13. Powers</b></p> <p>The General Meeting has the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Elect</b> the <b>members</b> of the <b>Coordination Committee</b>.</li> <li>b) <b>Approve the management</b> of the Coordination Committee and the <b>Secretariat General</b>.</li> <li>c) Examine and <b>approve the annual financial statements</b>.</li> <li>d) <b>Approve dissolution</b> of the Network.</li> <li>e) <b>Amend the Statutes</b>, including change of registered office.</li> <li>f) <b>Dispose of or alienate</b> assets.</li> <li>g) <b>Any other power</b> not attributed to another governing body.</li> <li>h) <b>Approve the incorporation of new associated institutions</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COORDINATION COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p><b>Article 14. Coordination Committee</b></p> <p>The Coordination Committee will be composed of <b>four institutions with the status of full members</b> of the Network, holding status A before GANHRI; <b>they will choose</b> from among them the national human rights institution to act as <b>Secretariat General</b> of the Network.</p> <p><b>Its composition</b> must include representation from at least one of the <b>following geographical areas</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>North America</b></li> <li>• <b>Central America</b></li> <li>• <b>Andean Region</b></li> <li>• <b>Southern Region</b></li> </ul> <p>The <b>members</b> of the Coordination Committee and of the Secretariat General will have a mandate of <b>two years</b>, renewable once, taking into consideration that there should be a fair balance ensuring the representation and rotation of all members.</p>

	<p>All positions on the Coordination Committee will be ad honorem.</p> <p>When a <b>member of the Coordination Committee</b> is elected President of GANHRI they will not lose their position as member of the Coordination Committee until their mandate as President of GANHRI expires.</p> <p>The four members of the Coordination Committee will represent the Network on the GANHRI Bureau.</p>
<p><b>COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b></p>	<p><b>Article 15. Meetings</b></p> <p>The Coordination Committee will meet as often as decided by the Secretariat General or at the initiative or request of half of its <b>members</b>. It will be constituted when half plus one of its <b>members</b> attend. For its agreements to be valid they must be reached by a majority of votes. If the vote is split, the <b>Secretariat General</b> will have a casting vote.</p>
<p><b>POWERS. COORDINATION COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p><b>Article 16. Powers</b></p> <p>The <b>Coordination Committee will have the authority</b> to make decisions and provide management as approved by the General Meeting.</p> <p>The Coordination Committee has the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Guide</b> the <b>Secretariat General</b>.</li> <li>b) Take part in managing and <b>leading the Network</b> in close coordination with the Secretariat General.</li> <li>c) Examine the work plans and timelines proposed by the Secretariat General.</li> <li>d) <b>Lead the activities</b> of the Network.</li> <li>e) <b>Coordinate the economic</b> and administrative <b>management</b> of the Association.</li> <li>f) <b>Execute the agreements</b> of the General Meeting.</li> <li>g) Prepare and submit for approval of the General Meeting the balance sheets and annual financial statements.</li> <li>h) Examine and <b>make recommendations</b> on the admission of new members to the Network for final approval by the General Meeting.</li> </ul>

	<p>i) <b>Approve</b>, on proposal of the Secretariat General, appointment of the person(s) to the position of <b>Permanent Technical Secretariat</b>.</p> <p>j) Any other power not exclusively within the remit of the General Meeting.</p>
<p><b>VACANCY ON THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p><b>Article 17. Vacancy</b></p> <p>Vacancies that arise on the Coordination Committee will be provisionally covered by the other <b>institution members</b> of this body, until the replacement representative is appointed.</p> <p>Representation on the Coordination Committee will be institutional in nature.</p> <p>If the position of Secretariat General becomes vacant because its holder's mandate ends, it will be occupied by the new holder of the national human rights institution, unless the latter expressly steps down. In this situation, the Coordination Committee will choose from among its <b>members</b> the new Secretariat General, which will hold the position until the end of the current period.</p>
<p><b>SECRETARIAT GENERAL</b></p>	<p><b>Article 18.</b></p> <p>The Secretariat General will have the following powers and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Represent</b> the Network politically before all kinds of public and private bodies.</li> <li>• Lead the Network according to the will of its governing bodies.</li> <li>• Convene, chair and close the sessions held of the General Meeting and Coordination Committee, and lead the deliberations of both.</li> <li>• <b>Manage</b> the Network <b>financially, providing guidelines and directives, in addition to authorisations to the Permanent Technical Secretariat</b>.</li> <li>• Authorise documents, minutes and correspondence by means of signature.</li> <li>• The Secretariat General, with the agreement of the Coordination Committee, <b>will be responsible</b> for organising <b>Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings</b> as required for the functioning of the Network.</li> <li>• The Secretariat General, with the agreement of the Coordination Committee, may carry out <b>all actions</b> as required to <b>achieve the objectives</b> of the Network.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the same way, the Secretariat General will receive <b>requests for incorporation</b>, in each case verifying the corresponding accreditation before the GANHRI.</li> <li>• Adopt any urgent measure that smooth running of the Network requires to achieve its aims and objectives, without prejudice to subsequent reporting to the <b>Coordination Committee</b> and <b>General Meeting</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT</b></p>	<p><b>Article 19. Permanent Technical Secretariat</b>  It is the operational support body of the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the American Continent.  Hierarchical and functional subordinate of the Secretariat General and the Coordination Committee.  It is exclusively at the service of the whole structure of the Network and its <b>members</b>.  It is the <b>collaborator for</b> achieving the aims and objectives of the Network.</p> <p><b>19.1</b> The Permanent Technical Secretariat will act as legal representative of RINDHCA.</p> <p><b>19.2</b> The Technical Secretariat will be chosen in a public selection process organised by the Secretariat General under the guidelines of the Coordination Committee.</p>
<p><b>DUTIES/COMPETENCIES OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT</b></p>	<p><b>Article 20. The Permanent Technical Secretariat</b> will have the following competencies:</p> <p>Operational competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>It will collaborate</b> with the whole structure of the Network.</li> <li>○ It will prepare to <b>plan, coordinate and carry out activities</b>.</li> <li>○ It will provide <b>services</b> to the <b>institutions associated with and forming part of the Network</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>It will facilitate institutional communication with the members</b>, other networks, international organisations, etc.</li> <li>○ It will prepare meetings and institutional <b>sessions</b>.</li> </ul>



- It will draw up Plans of **Work**.

Institutional competencies:

- It will be the **body for coordination** with the **Coordination Committee, the Secretariat General and the Meeting**.
- **It will facilitate the processes of communication** and coordination with **GANHRI and its Accreditation Sub-Committee**.
- It will participate in the GANHRI **Accreditation Sub-Committee** as an observer.
- Responsible for the **Institutional and Documentary Reporting** of the Network (e.g., minutes, announcements, press releases, etc.).
- Responsible for **drawing up the technical report for incorporation of the new institutions that form part of the Network**.

Administrative competencies:

- **It will execute the administrative and financial decisions** made by the Secretariat General and the Coordination Committee.
- It will have **operational responsibility** for managing the Network's assets.
- It will be responsible for **administration** of the Network.
- It will contribute to the **functional, administrative** and organisational **sustainability** of the Network.
- It will facilitate **institutional cooperation**.
- It will identify, develop and execute **financing funds** and international cooperation.

All these responsibilities must be carried out in close coordination with and explicitly subordinate to the Secretariat General and the Coordination Committee.

**The person(s) acting as Permanent Secretariat** will be proposed by the Secretariat General following **approval of the Coordination Committee**.

	<b>CHAPTER IV ASSOCIATE/MEMBER INSTITUTIONS</b>
<b>ASSOCIATE/MEMBER INSTITUTIONS</b>	<p><b>Article 21. Requirements</b></p> <p>Regardless of what they are called in each country, <b>national human rights institutions on the American continent</b>, set up in accordance with the <b>Paris Principles</b>, duly <b>accredited before</b> GANHRI and expressing an interest in achieving the aims of the Network may belong to the Network.</p> <p><b>21.1 Procedure for incorporation</b></p> <p>When the incorporation request is received, the Permanent Technical Secretariat will draw up a report, which will be submitted for consideration of the Coordination Committee, for subsequent approval of incorporation into the Network, by means of agreement of the General Meeting.</p>
<b>CATEGORIES OF ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONS</b>	<p><b>Article 22. Categories of associated institutions, members of the Network.</b></p> <p>The following categories of <b>associated institutions</b> will exist within the Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regardless of what they are called in each country, <b>national human rights institutions on the American continent</b>, set up in accordance with the <b>Paris Principles</b>, duly <b>accredited before</b> GANHRI and expressing an interest in achieving the aims of the Network may belong to the Network.</li> <li>• Regardless of what they are called in each country, <b>national human rights institutions on the American continent</b>, set up in accordance with the <b>Paris Principles</b>, duly <b>accredited before</b> GANHRI and expressing an interest in achieving the aims of the Network may belong to the Network.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National human rights institutions on the American continent, not set up in accordance with the Paris Principles, governments in the region whether or not they have a human rights institution, governmental institutions interested in human rights, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations may participate as observers. The position of observer will be granted by the Network Coordination Committee to institutions that expressly request it, in accordance, on each occasion, with the theme covered and the nature of the event to be held.</li> </ul> <p>The Network will form constructive alliances with governmental institutions, agencies, other regional associations, non-governmental organisations, <b>civil society organisations and social organisations</b>, among others, with an interest in human rights which can also participate as observers.</p>
<p><b>LOSS OF STATUS OF ASSOCIATE OR MEMBER INSTITUTION</b></p>	<p><b>Article 23. Loss of status of associate institution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By voluntary withdrawal, notified in writing to the Coordination Committee.</li> <li>For failure to achieve the aims and objectives of the Network.</li> <li>For suspension of the accreditation due to exceptional causes, in accordance with the GANHRI provisions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>REPRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATE INSTITUTION</b></p>	<p><b>Article 24.</b></p> <p>The representatives of each national human rights institution on the American continent <b>will be the principals</b> and may appoint, when they see fit, a deputy or equivalent official who can act in their absence.</p> <p>To do so they must attend the sessions with a written document backing this representation, completing the formalities of these Statutes and/or the formalities required by the laws of the Republic of Panama.</p>
<p><b>RIGHTS OF THE ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Article 25. Rights.</b></p> <p>The <b>institutions making up</b> the Network will have the following rights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the activities organised by the Network to achieve its aims.</li> <li>Enjoy all the advantages and benefits the Network may provide.</li> <li>Participate in Meetings and have a say.</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Participate with voting right in the Network's governing bodies when they are full <b>members</b>.</li> <li>e. Be able to elect and be elected to make up the Coordination Committee when they are full <b>members</b>.</li> <li>f. Receive information about the agreements adopted by the Network's governing bodies.</li> <li>g. Make <b>suggestions to the Coordination Committee</b> in order to achieve the aims of the Network as best as possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Article 26. Responsibilities.</b> The <b>institutions making up</b> the Network will have the following obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Abide by these Statutes and the valid agreements of the Meetings and the Coordination Committee.</li> <li>b. Contribute to the Network in accordance with its financial and legal possibilities.</li> <li>c. Attend Meetings and other events organised.</li> <li>d. Where applicable, perform the obligations inherent to the position they hold.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CHAPTER V ECONOMIC CONDITIONS</b></p>
<p><b>ECONOMIC CONDITIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Article 27. Economic resources</b> The economic resources provided for fulfilling the aims and activities of the Network will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Contributions in any form from its <b>associate institutions</b>.</li> <li>b) Subsidies, legacies or inheritances it may legally receive from members or third parties.</li> <li>c) Any other lawful resource.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Article 28. Assets</b> The initial assets of the Network are.</p> <p>(It may be indicated that, at the time of incorporation, the Network has no assets)</p>

	<p><b>Article 29. Financial year</b></p> <p>The <b>accounting and financial year</b> will be <b>annual</b>, beginning on <b>01 January</b> and closing on <b>31 December of each year</b>.</p>
<b>DISSOLUTION</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPTER VI DISSOLUTION</b></p> <p><b>Article 30. Dissolution</b></p> <p>The Network will be dissolved voluntarily when so agreed by the General Meeting, expressly convened for such purpose in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes.</p>
<b>LIQUIDATION AND USE OF SURPLUS</b>	<p><b>Article 31. Liquidation and use of surplus</b></p> <p>In the event of dissolution a liquidating committee will be appointed. Once the debts are extinguished, the liquid surplus, if any, will be used for purposes that do not distort the not-for-profit nature of the Network.</p>
<b>AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES</b>	<p><b>Article 32.</b></p> <p><b>Any full member</b> of the Network may propose amendments to these Statutes <b>by means of written proposal</b> submitted at least three months in advance for examination in the General Meeting. The <b>amendments</b> proposed <b>will require</b> for approval by a majority of <b>two thirds of the votes of the members present</b>.</p>
<b>OFFICIAL LANGAUGES OF THE NETWORK</b>	<p><b>Article 33.</b></p> <p>The official languages of the Network are <b>Spanish, French, English and Portuguese</b>.</p>

**Statutes approved at Extraordinary General Meeting of RINDHCA, held in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 8 June 2018.**