

# **Bylaws of the African Membrane Society**

Observation: this document predominantly uses the articles and pronouns He, Him, His. These forms should be read as equivalent to She, Her, Hers, respectively, and consistent with the spirit of gender equity promoted by AMSIC.

#### **CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1**: The present Internal Regulations complement the Statutes of the African Membrane Society and cannot be considered as contrary to its Statutes. They are enforceable. Its violation constitutes an act of indiscipline and shall be sanctioned as such.

# Article 2: Purpose and Objectives of the Association

It is non-political, secular, non-denominational, and non-profit making. Its aim is to train a critical mass of African experts in membrane processes and innovative water technologies for sustainable development.

The Association has set itself the following objectives:

- a) Initiate/consolidate training and research programs on Membrane Science and Technology (MST) and filtration;
- b) Support national and global development strategies in sectors such as water resources management, energy, health, food security, agriculture, environmental protection/sanitation;



- c) Encourage partnerships between experts in the sub-region and simplify scientific mobility protocols;
- d) Broaden the convergence of activities and technology transfer between the academic and industrial research sectors;
- e) Foster the emergence of a dynamic private sector capable of drawing on research expertise from the industrial and academic sectors;
- (f) Inform/train political actors and civil society on the usefulness of STMs in Africa.

# **Article 3: Members - Membership - Resignation**

- a) The Association includes active members, honorary members, and associate partners.
- b) An active member is any person whose candidacy is approved by the AMSIC Board of Directors and who subscribes to the objectives, principles and rules of the Association as set out in its Statutes and these Internal Regulations, and who:
- pays the annual membership fee of 30 euros, excluding students;
- participates regularly in the activities of the Association (teleconferences, annual meetings, submission of scientific papers, fundraising, etc.)
- c) An Honorary Member is any individual or legal entity who has rendered exceptional services to the Association and whose candidacy has been approved or requested by the Board of Directors;
- d) Membership shall be terminated by resignation or expulsion. Such decision shall be decided by the Board of Directors.



#### **Article 4: Student contribution to the AMSIC**

The Board of Directors shall encourage student membership in AMSIC.

# **Article 5: Headquarters - Duration of the Association**

The registered office of the Association is in Bamako and may be transferred to any other place in Africa by decision of the General Assembly.

The life of the Association is unlimited.

#### **CHAPTER 2: DISCIPLINE**

Article 5: Rights and duties

- a) Each member of the Association shall be entitled to:
  - Participate in the management of the Association;
  - Apply for all elective offices if he/she fulfils the required conditions;
  - Participate in voting except in case of revocation of voting rights.
- b) Each member is required to participate in fulfilling the objectives of the Association in accordance with its Statutes and By-Laws.
- c) Participation in the meetings of the members of the Board of Directors is compulsory under the penalty of sanctions applicable after six consecutive months of unjustified absence.



d) The annual payment of membership fees is compulsory for all professional members of the AMSIC under penalty of sanctions after a cumulative two (2) year non-payment. The Treasurer shall disclose in his/her annual report the balance of dues (acquittal) for each AMSIC member.

#### **Article 6: Penalties**

- a) Any member of the Association who is guilty of indiscipline or other violation of the Statutes or bylaws, shall incur the following progressive sanctions: warning, suspension, and expulsion.
- b) The definition of behavior qualified as "undisciplined" or "incompatible with the Statutes or Bylaws" is left to the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.
- c) Except in the case of refusal to comply, any promulgation of a sanction is subject to the prior hearing of the offender.

# **Article 7: Warning**

The warning is pronounced by the Board of Directors by majority decision of its members.

#### **Article 8: Suspension - Exclusion**

- a) Suspension and expulsion are pronounced by the Board of Directors after prior mediation by the members of the AMSIC.
- b) If, despite this intermediation, the recalcitrant member persists, the recommended sanction shall then be enforced.
- c) The minimum duration of a suspension is three months and is irrevocable in extreme cases. This decision must be approved by the Board of Directors.



- d) Suspension of a member shall not relieve the member of any financial obligations (dues, or other obligations incurred prior to suspension), unless the Board of Directors decides otherwise.
- e) The lifting of the suspension is subject to the terms and conditions defined by the Board of Directors.
- f) Exclusion is pronounced with the possibility of reinstatement not less than twelve months later.

# **CHAPTER 3: POWERS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Article 9: The President**

- a) S/He is the primary individual responsible for the Association.
- b) S/He represents the moral authority of the Association vis-à-vis third persons and institutions. He guarantees the Statutes and the Bylaws.
- c) S/He may delegate some of his/her functions to any member of the Board of Directors.
- d) S/He may appoint an interim member of the Executive Committee in case of absence or impediment of the latter.
- e) S/He assumes, among other things, the following tasks:
- chairing the meetings of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee;



- ordering the expenses of the Association and co-signing, with the Treasurer, cheques and any other document relating to the management of the financial and material resources of the Association;
- ensure the implementation of the vision, mission and objectives of the Association;
- assist the other bodies of the Association with the implementation of their functions;
- ensure the strict application of the Association's Statutes and Bylaws, as well as the correct execution by the Board of Directors of the decisions and instructions given by the General Assembly.

#### **Article 10: The Vice-President**

The Vice-President works closely with the President to facilitate the execution of the tasks. S/He provides critical analysis to inform the President in his/her decision making to improve the strategic orientations of the Association.

# **Article 11: The Secretary General**

- (a) The Secretary shall carry out by delegation all tasks entrusted to him/her by the President.
- (b) S/He shall be responsible for all matters relating to correspondence and archives. S/He draws up the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assemblies, as well as a record of the membership.

#### **Article 11: The Treasurer**



- (a) S/He shall be responsible for the management of the funds, property and equipment of the Association.
- b) The Treasurer shall have the authority to make any payment on behalf of the Association, to collect any monies and to give a valid receipt. S/He holds the checkbooks, and his/her signature is required on all checks and other documents relating to the management of the financial and material resources of the Association, alongside that of the President.
- c) S/He presents a financial report to each meeting of the Board of Directors for approval.

# Article 12: The Director of Academy-Industry Relations and Professional Development

- a) Consolidates the partnership and serves as a liaison between the University and Industrial ecosystems; and s/he identifies qualified partners willing to support such exchanges;
- b) Promotes Academe-Industry relations and s/he seeks to reinforce the breadth and depth of academic research in Africa;
- c) Builds Technical Training capacities for Technicians and Engineers across Africa i.e. working closely with subregional leaders on the Continent. S/He actively promotes technician training efforts driven by Africa campuses;
- d) Works to achieve a balanced Industry/Academe enrollment within AMSIC.



# **Article 13: The Director of Communication, Information and Social Networks**

- a) Oversees the management of a communication system that aspires to give a greater visibility to the network actions;
- b) Leverages several social platforms to share news about AMSIC stories, its main events and development projects;
- c) Publishes at least a couple of AMSIC newsletters each year;
- d) Organizes AMSIC election votes and the new membership applications. S/He liaises with prospective members, and responds to AMSIC website solicitations;
- e) Creates and disseminates non-scientific promotional materials (literature, films, audio supports) to promote events organized/attended by AMSIC.

# **Article 14: The Director of Scientific and Technological Affairs:**

- a) Coordinates the research, teaching, expertise, and broad dissemination of programs on membrane processes;
- b) Encourages AMSIC members to publish scientific and technological articles;
- c) Assesses and validates AMSIC publication scientific content;
- d) Initiates and manages the dissemination of scientific publications on membrane technologies targeting Africa's interests and needs;
- e) Builds sustainable Membrane Educational Curricula e.g. via the AMSIC Online Academy;
- e) Directs efforts aimed at creating Centers of Excellence in membrane and filtration processes across Africa;
- f) Expands scientific/industrial publishing opportunities for the network.

  Le siège social de l'African Membrane Society (AMSIC) se trouve à l'Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs

  Abderhamane B. Touré (ENI-ABT) située au 410 avenue Vollenhoven, BP 242, Bamako Mali

  Sites: ENI-ABT, https://www.eni-abt.ml/ et AMSIC, http://www.sam-ptf.com/



#### **Article 15: The Director of External Relations:**

- a) Ensures the external promotion of AMSIC;
- b) Works closely with other AMSIC directors (Communication/ Fundraising/Academe Industry/Executive Committee) to promote the network;
- c) Coordinates and promotes cooperative initiatives with other membrane organizations; initiate strategic alliances when the opportunity arises
- d) Liaises with partners that are susceptible to reinforce AMSIC capacities i.e.; individual persons; educational institutions; state organizations; private groups.

# **Article 16: The Director of Fundraising:**

- a) Leads fundraising efforts for streamlining AMSIC administrative management
- b/ Encourages/solicits members to pay AMSIC membership fees;
- c/ Identifies and mobilizes sources (people, organizations) aligned with AMSIC principles and values, that are willing to support AMSIC e.g., through in-kind/financial donations;
- d/ Finds sponsors for meetings organized/attended by AMSIC, especially its International Congress
- e/Interacts with all Board of Directors functions to identify new funding opportunities for the network.



#### **Article 17: The Director of the Visual Content and the Website:**

S/He shall be responsible for updating the AMSIC website. S/he ensures that the website (window of AMSIC) maintains an attractive presence through its content and form.

# **Article 18: The Director for New Talent and Leadership Committee**

- -Contributes to shape/implement the Centers of Excellence (Science Directors) or Technical Training Facility (Academe-Industry Directors) initiatives.
- -Creates robust administrative processes (e.g. AMSIC template forms; online platforms; email system etc.) under the guidance of AMSIC leadership.
- -Closes gender inequalities and generational gaps, also attracts new talents.

#### **Article 19: Interim within the Board of Directors**

In accordance with Article 9, temporary status may not exceed twelve (12) months. In this case, a new incumbent shall be elected to the post.



#### **CHAPTER 4: RESOURCES**

**Article 20**: The membership fee is annual and is set at the minimum amount of 30 euros per active member in accordance with the AMSIC Statutes.

**Article 21**: The resources of the Association may come from subsidies, donations and legacies.

#### **CHAPTER 5: FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 22**: Other complementary provisions not contrary to the Statutes and Bylaws may be taken into consideration by the Board of Directors, and for a better execution of the tasks set forth by the Association.

These Bylaws may only be modified after consultation with the General Assembly. The latter shall rule on all matters submitted to it. It must be composed of at least one-third of the members of the Association entitled to attend the remote meetings; and must include a quorum of ten persons (members of the Association) for physical meetings. Decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present. If the quorum is not reached, a new Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened within thirty days. No quorum is then required. Its decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

Sfax, TUNISIA February 11th, 2024



# Amended, Read, and Approved by:



# Bamako, MALI, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Created, Read, and Approved by:

The Constituent General Assembly (President Abdoulaye Doucouré)