

# GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE (GII)

## MEMBERSHIP POLICY

### BACKGROUND

#### 1.0. INTRODUCTION

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption. GII, launched in December 1999, is a non-partisan, non-profit civil empowerment organization focused on the delivery of essential themes necessary for the creation of a National Integrity System.

GII's three main strategic objectives to achieving a corruption-free Ghana in all spheres of human endeavour where people and institutions act with integrity, accountability and transparency are:

1. To continuously create awareness about the negative effects of corruption
2. To empower citizens to demand responsiveness, accountability and transparency from people and institutions in Ghana
3. To build a culture of integrity, where corruption is unprofitable for people working in government, politics, business and civil society organizations by working with people and institutions.

#### 1.1. GII ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMMES

- **Research** - Conducting research and launching findings of both local and international surveys conducted by TI on corruption-related issues;
- **Public Education** – Educating the public about civic rights and duties, especially on the basis of constitutionalism by organizing workshops, seminars, etc. on the causes, effects and solutions to the problem of corruption;
- **Publication** - GII through its quarterly newsletter (GII Alert), highlights significant happenings in anti-corruption in Ghana and around the world;
- **Networking** - GII liaises with individuals and local/international anti-corruption institutions to promote the fight against corruption;
- **Lobbying/Advocacy** - Sensitizing political and other concerned parties and entering into dialogue on corruption to advocate for legislative and institutional reforms.

#### 2.0. CRITERIA

Applicants will be obliged to meet certain criteria before being accepted as members, such as the following:

1. Preference shall be given to individuals or professional associations who have an

interest in the fight against corruption and a strong desire for improved transparency, accountability and National Integrity Systems in the country.

2. A successful applicant must believe in the principles and values of GII and be a person with a track record of integrity and credibility;
3. The applicant must be respected by his or her community as an upright person.
4. The applicant must not engage in active politics or be a party activist (non-partisan). This is because GII, and its parent organization TI, are non-partisan Civil Society Organizations and need to retain that neutrality in their fight against corruption.
5. The applicant must not have any criminal background or have been convicted by a court of law.
6. The applicant should be literate since he/she would need to read corruption literature from GII to enhance the knowledge of the member on anti-corruption work.

### **2.1. SELECTION**

The selection process will be carried out by the Board of Directors of GII and it shall do so at its sole discretion.

1. Recommended members shall be required to fill an application form declaring support for the objects of the organisation and should abide by the Articles of Association;
2. Each time recommendations are made they shall be considered at the next Board meeting;
3. Every person/organization entered as a member shall be entitled to a Certificate of Membership which shall be issued under the Authority of the Board;
4. In order to keep track of its members, once a new member is considered they shall be registered in an office Register of Members, which shall be open to inspection by all members.

Applications that are rejected shall be returned with the prescribed annual subscription and the Board shall be required to furnish reason for its rejection of an application.

### **3.1. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership shall be at individual and organisational levels i.e. media persons, civil society organisations, academia, etc, who have common interest in the anti-corruption work of GII and in the areas of promotion of human rights, transparency, accountability, integrity and good governance. Corporate members will also be accepted and will be represented by accredited representatives.
2. GII shall also accept Associate and Honorary members who shall have no vote, shall not be counted towards a quorum and shall not pay any membership fees. However, donations to GII shall be accepted.

### **4.0. ROLES OF MEMBERS**

1. Each member shall undertake to contribute to the assets of GII and in the event of being wound up while as a member or within one year after ceasing to be a member, pay the debts and liabilities of GII and the cost of winding up, not exceeding GH¢100.
2. Each member shall undertake to promote GII in his/her organization or community and help GII to organise events in the organization or community.
3. A member, when called upon, shall accept to deliver speeches in his/her area of expertise and/or contribute to GII's quarterly newsletter 'GII Alert'.
4. A member must undertake to attend the Annual General Meetings of GII and vote

at such meeting on issues brought before members, including the selection/election of Board members.

#### **5.0. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Annual subscriptions payable by members shall be determined by the Members at the Annual General Meeting or by the Board of Directors from time to time.

1. Annual subscription shall be calculated from the first of January each year and shall be payable in advance of the date each year, to the Organization.
2. A member joining the organisation later in the year would be given a pro rata in proportion to the remaining months for the end of that particular year.

Notwithstanding that a member ceases to be a member of the Company, they shall continue to be liable for/to :-

1. All Annual Subscription fees or amounts owing by them to the organisation which are due and unpaid as at the date that such a member ceases to be a member.
2. All debts and liabilities of the organisation for which they remain responsible for as per the terms of the Memorandum.
3. Conforming to the terms as per Articles/Memorandum and adhering to the principles and values of GII.

Initially, members may not be required to pay any fees for GII membership. However, the members can decide at their first meeting to impose any fees on themselves either as a source of financial support to the organization or at least to help fund the activities of Members such as the Annual General Meeting.

#### **5.1. BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members of GII shall be entitled to the following benefits :

1. They shall receive the various publications of TI/GII
2. They will have access to the TI/GII information center which encompasses the global TI network.
3. GII will also offer services on Corruption such as awareness raising, development of integrity systems etc, to any of its member organizations on request.
4. The members will receive annual reports and audited financial statements of GII.

#### **5.2. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Directors shall also act as the disciplinary committee and therefore has the right to apply disciplinary measures on its members in the event that :-

1. A member fails to conform to the Articles or Memorandum of Understanding. This can lead to suspension and ultimately expulsion although the Board of Directors shall not expel a member until at least ten (10) days notice has been given to such member, stating the particulars of when the expulsion is to be discussed between the two parties. A member is also to be furnished with details as to the nature of the alleged misconduct.
2. In the event that a member is resigning, they may give the Executive Secretary

- notice in writing of their resignation.
3. A member shall cease to be a member if s/he is sequestrated or being a company, have wound up or have been placed under receivership.
  4. In the sole discretion of the Board of Directors and in the best interest of the organisation, a member shall cease to be a member if their subscription remains unpaid for a period of ninety (90) days after notice is given concerning payment of subscription.
  5. A member whose membership is terminated or is suspended shall not have any claim of any nature against the organisation or Board Members.
  6. Membership and/or rights, benefits and /or advantages of membership shall not be transferable and shall unless previously terminated, cease and terminate upon death or any other serious calamity.
  7. A member found to be dishonest or charged with a criminal offence and convicted as such will have his or her membership annulled, because any act of dishonesty or deviant behaviour of a member can undermine the corporate image of GII.

### **5.3. VOTING RIGHTS**

A member of the GII shall be entitled to one vote in regard to all matters laid before a meeting of members.

1. At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless poll is demanded by the Chairperson, or at least five (5) members present in person or by proxy or by representation.
2. Unless a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the proceedings of the organization, shall be conclusive evidence of such fact.
3. If a poll is demanded, it shall be taken in such a manner as the chairperson directs and the result of the poll shall be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

A member shall not be entitled to vote at a general meeting unless all sums payable in respect of Membership in the Company have been paid.

### **6.0. CONCLUSION**

Membership shall be governed by the GII regulations of association and provisions of the Companies Act where the Articles of Association do not adequately cover the issue at hand.

It is, therefore, mandatory that all members shall conform to the GII's policy that is encompassed around these governing documents.