

THE NETWORK FOR INTEGRITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

The signatories, hereinafter “the members of the network”,

Considering:

1. The existence of shared values, likely to facilitate exchanges between institutions responsible for integrity, transparency and ethics of public officials, in order to strengthen citizens’ confidence in their elected representatives and public administrations;
2. Citizens’ increasing expectations, regardless of the country, in terms of open government, transparency of public action, integrity in public life, traceability of public;
3. Similarities among objectives and missions they have been entrusted with, enabling exchanges and mutual understanding;
4. The different national legal traditions in which they are embedded;
5. The international component of the fight against corruption and breaches of integrity, the promotion of good governance, transparency and open government;
6. The principles laid down by the Universal declaration of Human rights, adopted in Paris, France by the Resolution 217 (III) A of the United Nations General Assembly, on December 10th, 1948;
7. The existence of international legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against corruption, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 58/4 of October 31st, 2003 and signed, on December 9th, 2003, by 114 pays in Merida, Mexico, covering not only criminalization and suppression of acts of corruption but also their prevention and assessment of the implementation of these policies by peers;
8. The existence of national, regional and international initiatives to promote the dialogue between practitioners, members of government and civil society organizations, regarding the fight against corruption but also to promote open government, transparency in public action and its openness to new means of citizens’ concertation.

Agree as follows:

NETWORK FOR INTEGRITY

Article 1. Creation

The institutions responsible for integrity in public life create the Network for integrity (hereinafter « the Network »).

Article 2. Definitions

The Charter makes reference to the following terms which are defined below.

Network for Integrity: *is a multilateral cooperation organization that aims to develop and promote an international culture of integrity, transparency, and ethics in public life to contribute to the fight against corruption and to strengthen the trust that citizens place in their governments and public services.*

Independent/Independence: *refers to institutional, operational and decision-making freedom from influence, direction, or control by any body performing public functions that the members of this Network oversee, including the executive.*

Full members/Effective members: *refers to any public institution responsible for carrying out, in complete independence, without receiving instructions from the legislative and executive branches of government, and being a non-judicial body, the tasks established by law relating to integrity, transparency or ethics in public life.*

Adherent Members: *refers to any public institution that is responsible for carrying out missions (set by law) and related to integrity, transparency, or ethics in public life.*

Observers: *any public, international or private institution interested in promoting integrity, transparency or ethics in public life and wishing to support the development of the Network technically, if they wish to do so.*

Article 3. About the Network

The Network pursues the objective of developing and promoting an international culture of integrity, transparency, and ethics in public life, in order to contribute to the fight against corruption and the strengthening of citizens' confidence towards public office holders, notably in their relations with the private sector.

To this end, the Network intends to enable exchanges of information and best practices between its members, in compliance with existing state laws and regulations, and to ensure an advocacy function towards international and civil society organizations on topics related to integrity, transparency or ethics in public life.

Article 4. Mission

The Network's mission is to share knowledge and best practices, to build capacity, to help identify what is needed for global progress and to act as a collective voice in international fora with a view to improve culture of integrity, transparency and ethics in public life and the ability to hold bodies that perform public functions to account.

Article 5. Goals

To pursue these goals, the Network may:

1. Offer opportunities for its members to meet in order to share experiences and improve their mutual understanding;
2. Organize work sessions on specific matters, related to integrity, transparency or ethics in public life;
3. Foster the elaboration and implementation of training sessions between members;
4. Offer an assistance platform allowing its members to exchange information with other institutions, on relevant topics to them, and offering, in the long run, support to members willing to develop new missions or to countries wishing to create institutions in charge of integrity, transparency and ethics in public life, without prejudice of each member's policy regarding confidential information;
5. Draft studies, surveys, articles, or press releases on topics of common interest to the members;
6. Foster relationships with other international networks that promote integrity and fight against corruption;
7. Promote and support dialogue and mutual cooperation;
8. Act as a collective voice in the international community to raise awareness of issues that impact affecting integrity, ethics and transparency in public life;

9. Promote the development and adoption of international standards of integrity, transparency and ethics in public life in all regions across the world;
10. Implement any activity in accordance with the objectives of the Network and with the mission as provided by the Article 4 of this Charter.

Article 6. Principles

The network adheres to the following values:

1. Respect and integrity.
2. Collaboration.
3. Inclusiveness.
4. Transparency.
5. Accountability.

Article 7. Activities of the Network

The Network organizes all necessary activities to the pursuit of its objectives, in compliance with the directions laid down in the strategic plan.

These activities include, but are not limited to:

1. The organization of seminars on topics of common interest. Depending on the degree of technicality of the discussion, the institutions may be represented by members of their staff;
2. At the request of one or several members full/effective and adherent members, the setting up of trainings delivered by another member or a third party. The institutions may be represented by members of their staff benefitting from the training;
3. The drafting of publications;
4. The presentation of common positions in reaction to specific events or regarding the participation of the Network in the work of other organizations.

Article 8. Types of Membership and Registration

The Network shall have three types of membership: Full/Effective Members, Adherent Members and Observers, as established in the definitions stated in article 2 of this Charter.

Registration

Any public institution may apply for membership to the Presidency and the Secretariat in accordance with the membership registration procedure established in the Handbook.

Membership applications, together with the appropriate documentation regarding the legal status of the institution and its last activity report, are to be addressed to the Presidency and Vice presidency.

The Secretariat prepares a report regarding the membership criteria needed to be fulfilled in accordance with the type of membership and refers it to Presidency for their validation and then to the Members for their consideration.

After reviewing the report, the members of the Network vote electronically on the membership of the new institution, by a majority of the votes cast.

Each institution is represented in the Network by its chairperson or, failing that, by a person delegated by the Chairperson to represent the institution.

Article 9. Full/effective member

Eligibility

Any public institution can become a member of the Network, on request, if it meets the three following criteria, intended to ensure a certain degree of homogeneity within the Network:

1. Carrying out missions set by law and related to integrity, transparency or ethics in public life;
2. Carrying out its missions, in complete independence, without receiving any instruction from legislative and executive branches of government;
3. Being a non-judicial body.

Each institution is represented within the Network by its chairperson or, failing that, by a person he or she delegates.

Article 10. Rights and duties of Full/effective member

Rights:

1. Request a proper functioning of the Network, in accordance with the Charter, and an equal treatment of all members;

2. Attend plenary sessions and activities of the Assembly with voice and vote;
3. Deliberate and vote on the integration of Full member/Effective member, Adherent member or Observer;
4. Suggest an activity to be carried out under the auspices of the Network, informing the Presidency and Secretariat in advance;
5. Benefit from other members' assistance, in accordance with their respective means;
6. Use the tools of the Network to increase its visibility;
7. Apply for the positions of Presidency and Vice-Presidency/ Secretariat through the procedures outlined in Article 14 of this Charter;
8. Elect the positions of Presidency and Vice-presidency/ Secretariat;
9. Integrate and participate in the working groups of the Network;
10. Participate in the determination of strategic priorities for the Network, which will be proposed by the Presidency and Secretariat.

Duties:

11. Participate in the functioning of the Network, by providing necessary information, in compliance with their respective state laws and regulations, and by taking part in the exchanges;
12. Attend the events of the Network and, when necessary, contribute to their organization;
13. Contribute to the development of the Network and its influence;
14. Members should, where possible, promote the work of the Network in relevant international, regional and national forums;
15. Voting on the reforms to the Charter and the dissolution of the Network in accordance with the provisions of this document;
16. Disapprove amendments to the Charter.

Article 11. Adherent Members

Any public institution can become an **adherent member** of the Network, upon request, if it meets the following criteria.

1. Carrying out missions set by law and related to integrity, transparency or ethics in public life.

Article 12. Rights and duties of adherent members

Rights

1. Attend plenary sessions of the Assembly and activities with voice, meaning, with the possibility of making comments on the planification of activities, their execution or ideas that could improve the performance of the Network. They will not have the right to vote in the cases specified in this Charter.
2. Participate in cooperation activities and exchange of best practices carried out by the Network;
3. Benefit from other members' assistance, in accordance with their respective means;
4. Use the tools of the Network to increase its visibility.
5. Integrate and participate in the working groups of the Network.
6. Propose to the Network Assembly, through its Presidency and Secretariat, the implementation of specific cooperation projects.

Duties

7. Participate in the functioning of the Network, by providing necessary information, for the exchanges.
8. Attend the events of the Network.
9. Contribute to the development of the Network and its influence.
10. If possible, promote the work of the Network in relevant international, regional and national fora.

Article 13. Observers

1. The Network for Integrity encourages the participation of observers.

At the initiative of one of its members, the Network may grant a non-member institution the status of observer or partner. This status is granted through an electronic voting procedure, at a majority of the voting cast.

The observer member status can be granted to:

1. Institutions that do not meet the criteria set forth in articles 9 and 11, but are involved in dealing with integrity, transparency and/or ethics in public life;
2. An institution or an organization that is associated to the activities of the Network on a regular basis, without taking part in its governance;
3. Any other organization that has granted observer status to the Network in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

The partner status applies to an organization giving its support to the functioning and activities of the Network.

Observers may attend parts of the plenary sessions of members at the invitation of the Presidency or upon request to the Secretariat.

Article 14. Presidency and Vice-Presidency

The Presidency of the Network is ensured by one of its full/effective member institutions, represented by its chairperson or the person he or she delegates, for a period of two years.

During each plenary session, a member of the Network, apart from the departing president, is elected vice-president for two years by a two-thirds majority of attending members.

The Secretariat operates under the responsibility of the president.

The former president, the current president and the Vice-president elected will install a temporary table to promote the proper organization of the Network.

Members who are interested in taking the Vice-presidency shall inform the Secretariat at least one month before the next plenary session. The Secretariat

transmits the candidacies received to the Presidency and to all members prior to the plenary session.

If there is no candidate, this item is put on the agenda of the plenary session.

At the end of the mandate, the vice-president becomes president of the Network.

The first president and the first vice-president are elected during the first plenary session of the Network.

Article 15. Roles and Responsibilities of the Presidency

The roles and responsibilities of the Presidency shall be as follows:

1. Ensures the external representation of the Network, for which it may conclude and sign cooperation agreements, in accordance with the regulations or faculties of each institution that exercises the Presidency.
2. Full/ effective members may participate in the voting of cooperation agreements that affect a formal commitment of the entire Network.
3. Designing the strategic plan of the Network for the duration of the mandate and for defining its activities. During the preparation of the strategic plan, the president consults members to gather inputs and comments.
4. Ensures the enforcement of decisions taken by the members of the Network.
5. Organize the plenary session that takes place at the end of the president's mandate.
6. Submits to the other members an overview of their tenure in their two years, with respect to the objectives pursued in the strategic plan.
7. Receive updates from Working Groups and participate in their meeting in order to verify the accomplishment of the Strategic Plan.
8. Develop the procedures for the operation of the Network, in consultation with the members. The development of manuals, handbooks, annexes, and other relevant documents to facilitate the participation of the membership.
9. Communicate the decision to exclude a member.
10. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

The president's missions are exercised in cooperation with the vice-president.

In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Article 16. Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice-presidency

The roles and responsibilities of the Vice-presidency shall be as follows:

1. Preparing the meetings agenda and drafting their record;
2. Keeping members informed of the activities of the Network;
3. Assisting the president in its different functions;
4. Assisting members of the Network in the organization of events;
5. Receiving Full member/Effective member, Adherent member or Observer membership application and requests for granting the status of observer member or partner;
6. Coordinating the activity of the Network, including the strategic plan, and the connections between its members;
7. Ensuring fund, maintenance and updates of the website of the Network.
8. Maintain and update the database of oversight authorities, members, observers, and stakeholders.
9. Receive and review applications for host countries (in years that do not correspond to the outgoing presidency).
10. Assist the host country with the organisation of the annual meeting.
11. Publish of network operating procedures.
12. Draw up the minutes of the plenary sessions.
13. Manage the voting process of members.
14. Handing over to the new Secretariat.

Article 17. Hosting of the Plenary Session

The Network members gather at least once every two years with the possibility to participate remotely, for the plenary session, at the invitation of the president. The plenary session is the main decision-making place of the Network. Members are represented by their respective chairperson or by a person he or she delegates.

During this plenary session, the Network adopts its strategic plan for the duration of the president's mandate.

Plenary sessions that coincide with the term of tenure of the presidency must be held under its hosting.

During these plenary sessions, the Network adopts its strategic plan for the duration of the new President's mandate.

In the other year, members who wish to host the plenary session must submit an application in writing to the Secretariat in accordance with the process for application and selection of a host.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Host of the plenary session are to:

1. Develop the programme for the plenary meeting in collaboration with the Presidency, Secretariat and, to the extent possible, after consultation with the members.
2. Ensure the adoption of the agenda of the meeting and provide the records or files which allows to generate the minutes.
3. Secure funding of the plenary session.
4. Manage the logistics of the plenary session.

Article 18. Working Groups

The Working Groups are technical bodies dedicated to the study and development of specific topics and issues related to the objectives and activities of the Network.

Working Groups are composed of plenary and adherent members and may be formed from time to time to advance the work of the Network on its strategic priorities.

A Full/Effective member may propose the establishment of a Working Group. It submits its proposal to the Secretariat, which confirms the creation of a Group after a careful evaluation and previous agreement with the membership.

Members of the Working Groups are volunteers.

Each Working Group will have a coordinator, designated by the majority of the votes cast by all members, at the initial meeting of the respective group. This figure will fall to a member of the Network, who shall designate the responsible personnel.

Working Groups are expected to report on their progress to the members at the annual meeting and to provide updates to the Presidency and Secretariat as required.

The Groups may have a permanent or temporary mandate, as determined in the strategic plan and in accordance with the evaluation that the group itself, the Presidency and the Secretariat make of their mission.

The Groups have autonomy to organize themselves, adopt the work procedures that they consider appropriate to achieve their objectives and prepare their work plan in accordance with the plans of the Network, which must be reported to the Presidency and the Secretariat.

Article 19. Language

The official working languages of the Network are English and French.

Oral and written exchanges between all members are in both languages, when needed with the support of the secretariat of the Network, or in the plenary session by the host.

Written productions (memos, reports, studies, etc.) of the Network are drafted in English and French.

The website of the Network is bilingual.

Members whose official language is not English or French are encouraged to translate the written productions of the Network into their respective language if their ability and financial and human resources allow them to do so. A repository of such translations is available on the website.

Article 20. Voting

Decisions are submitted to the members for approval through a vote at a majority of the votes cast of the Full/ Effective Members, including:

1. The granting of a status of member, observer member or partner to an organization;
2. The adoption of common positions and the publication of press releases with regard to specific events;
3. The withdrawal of membership in the cases provided in the second and third paragraph of article 22.
4. The election of venue which hold the plenary sessions (and that do not correspond to the outgoing presidency).

Voting takes place during plenary sessions, or when necessary, through an electronic consultation, the results of which are centralized by the Secretariat.

Adherent members, observer members and partners cannot take part in any vote.

Article 21. Fees

Membership of the Network is **exempt from financial contribution**.

Nonetheless, its members are responsible for covering their expenses in order to take part in the activities of the Network. They may individually request external contributions to finance such participation.

With the exception of the plenary session, which takes place under the responsibility of the President, the events of the Network are organized on a voluntary basis, ensuring a fair distribution between its members. When a member proposes to organize an event, it may request financial support from a third party.

Article 22. Membership withdrawal, termination, and suspension

A member may exit the Network. The chairperson informs the Presidency and Secretariat through a letter of its will to exit the Network. That decision is effective after notification of the letter to all members.

The members present at the plenary session meeting may, upon receipt of a motion from a member, vote to exclude a member permanently or suspend, after having

heard all interested parties, if they determine that the member has demonstrated a pattern of behavior which is inconsistent with the values of the Network.

The Presidency and the Secretariat may present to the Assembly of members a request for exclude of a member from the network, when the institution is no longer active in the network or when the institution was dissolved for a period of more than two years.

The decision of the members present at the annual meeting is final.

Article 23. Conflict Resolution

In the event a conflict arises in the interpretation of the Charter, or of its processes, matters will be referred by the member or members to the Presidency and Secretariat for their consideration, mediation and resolution.

In the event that the conflict cannot be resolved by the Presidency and Secretariat, the matter will be referred to the members present at the plenary session for a resolution by way of a vote.

The decision of the members present at the plenary session is final.

Article 24. Amendments to the Charter

Full/Effective members, may present a request for amendment(s) to the Charter.

A proposed amendment to the Charter must be submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will review the proposed amendment and present a recommendation to the Presidency and members at the annual meeting.

Any proposed amendment to this Charter will be voted on by members present at the plenary session or when necessary, through an electronic consultation, the results of which are centralized by the permanent Secretariat

The vote to amend the Charter requires a two third majority of members present at the plenary meeting, or by the participants through electronic means.

Article 25. Dissolution

The Network is dissolved by unanimous decision of all its members.

Article 26. Entry into force

The present Charter shall take effect after its approval, in compliance with proceedings prevailing within each institution, and at the latest on the 15th of March 2024.