

| <b>Formulaire ICH-09</b>  |
|---|
| <b>1. Nom de l'organisation</b><br>Veuillez indiquer la dénomination officielle de l'organisation, dans sa langue d'origine ainsi qu'en français et/ou en anglais.  |
| RURAL WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (RWEPA)  |
| <b>2. Adresse de l'organisation</b><br>Indiquez le nom et l'adresse complète de l'organisation, ainsi que les coordonnées complémentaires telles que le numéro de téléphone ou de télécopie, l'adresse électronique, le site Web, etc. L'adresse postale indiquée doit être celle où l'organisation a son activité, quel que soit son lieu de domiciliation juridique (voir point 8).   |
| RURAL WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, NGO IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, B.P 463, SONAC STREET, BAMENDA, NORTH WEST REGION, CAMEROON. TEL/FAX 00(237) 33361840 Mobile. 00(237)77690322. e-mail: rose_mbah@yahoo.com   |
| <b>3. Pays où l'organisation est active</b><br>Veuillez indiquer le/les pays où l'organisation exerce ses activités. Si elle œuvre uniquement dans un seul pays, veuillez préciser lequel. Si ses activités sont internationales, veuillez indiquer si elle opère au niveau mondial ou dans une ou plusieurs régions, et listez les principaux pays où elle mène ses activités.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> international (veuillez préciser :)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dans le monde entier<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Afrique<br><input type="checkbox"/> États arabes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Asie & Pacifique<br><input type="checkbox"/> Europe & Amérique du Nord<br><input type="checkbox"/> Amérique latine & Caraïbes<br>Veuillez énumérer le/les principal(aux) pays où elle est active:<br>CAMEROON , USA, MALI, NIGERIA. |
| <b>4. Date de sa création ou durée approximative de son existence</b><br>Veuillez indiquer quand l'organisation a été créée.  |
| 18 March 1996   |

### 5. Objectifs de l'organisation

Veillez décrire les objectifs pour lesquels l'organisation a été créée et qui doivent être « en conformité avec l'esprit de la Convention » (Critère C). Si les principaux objectifs de l'organisation sont autres que la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel, veuillez expliquer en quoi ses objectifs de sauvegarde sont liés à ces objectifs plus vastes.

*350 mots maximum ; veuillez ne pas joindre des informations complémentaires.*

The general objective of the organization is to preserve the flora and the fauna and also to protect sacred shrines of the Fondoms of the North west Region of Cameroon. We also encourage the indigenous and tribal peoples of Cameroon to preserve their rich cultural heritage and their identity. Cameroon has over 250 different tribal groups that are living together harmoniously with about the same number of local languages. After the colonial masters, these tribal peoples adopted two official languages which were French and English. Cameroon then became a bilingual country after independence. All of these merit special attention because RWEPA realized that all of these put together constituted a gold mine for Africa. That is why Cameroon is considered as Africa in Miniature.

I like to elaborate on objectives such as Languages i.e native dialects which we encourage through advice to the various peoples to teach their children their mother tongue within the first six years of delivery. We have even gone to the extent that the first two years of elementary school i.e classes one and two, should be handled by teachers who are natives of that area. The children pick-up the other official languages very fast after that.

The second point is the encouragement of the populations to maintain their traditional dishes such as eru and waterfuf which is proven scientifically to contain 9 out of the 10 essential amino acids that are very necessary for the wellbeing of the body. There is also the traditional palm oil and beas that the north west people like to eat. It is also proven that red oil contains vitamin A which is very instrumental for the growth of young children. It treats malnutrition.

**6. Activités de l'organisation en matière de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel**

Les points 6.a. à 6.c. sont essentiellement destinés à montrer que l'ONG satisfait au critère consistant à « avoir des compétences, des qualifications et l'expérience avérées en matière de sauvegarde (telle que celle-ci est définie dans l'article 2.3 de la Convention) du patrimoine culturel immatériel se manifestant entre autres dans un ou plusieurs domaines spécifiques » (Critère A).

**6.a. Domaine(s) où l'organisation est active**

Veuillez cocher une ou plusieurs cases pour indiquer les domaines principaux où l'organisation est la plus active. Si ses activités se rapportent à d'autres domaines que ceux énumérés, veuillez cocher « autres domaines » et indiquez les domaines concernés.

- traditions et expressions orales
- arts du spectacle
- pratiques sociales, rituels et événements festifs
- connaissances et pratiques concernant la nature et l'univers
- savoir-faire liés à l'artisanat traditionnel
- autres domaines – veuillez préciser :

Protection of the environment in general, especially the preservation and protection of Biological Diversity and sacred shrines for traditional rituals. RWEPA also tries to valorize traditional knowledge, traditional practices, traditional beliefs and myths.

**6.b. Principales activités de sauvegarde dans lesquelles l'organisation est impliquée**

Veuillez cocher une ou plusieurs cases pour indiquer les principales activités de sauvegarde de l'organisation. Si ses activités impliquent des mesures de sauvegarde non énumérées ici, veuillez cocher « autres mesures de sauvegarde » en précisant lesquelles.

- identification, documentation, recherche (y compris le travail d'inventaire)
- préservation, protection
- promotion, mise en valeur
- transmission, éducation formelle et non formelle
- revitalisation
- autres mesures de sauvegarde – veuillez préciser :

### **6.c. Description des activités de l'organisation**

Les organisations qui font une demande d'accréditation doivent décrire brièvement leurs activités récentes et leur expérience en matière de sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Veuillez donner des informations sur le personnel et les membres de l'organisation, décrire leurs compétences et qualifications dans le domaine du patrimoine culturel immatériel et expliquer comment elles les ont acquises. La documentation justifiant ces activités et ces compétences peut être présentée, si nécessaire, au point 8.c. ci-dessous.

*750 mots maximum ; veuillez ne pas joindre des informations complémentaires.*

Cameroon has over 250 different tribal groups that are living together harmoniously with about the same number of local languages. After the colonial masters, these tribal peoples adopted two official languages which were French and English. Cameroon then became a bilingual country after independence. All of these merit special attention because RWEPA realized that all of these put together constituted a gold mine for Africa. That is why Cameroon is considered as Africa in Miniature. RWEPA is a network of subgroups whose common goal is to preserve and protect the environment through the promotion of positive cultural values among the rural populace. These concerns the Fons who are the custodians of the traditions and the culture of every group of people. The Fons perform the traditional rituals after they have been initiated traditionally into the village secret societies. RWEPA executives that are made up of sub group presidents , secretaries and treasurers are mostly acting as advisers and educators since most of the time, these custodians of the customs and traditions are not educated and may not be able to read or write these cultural festivals help to educate their children that are delivered out of their native land to know the customs and traditions of their ancestors, and also to ensure the sustainability of the various positive cultural aspects that are existing in Cameroon. RWEPA has been actively participating at the international level since 1998 till today at various UN conferences to advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Cameroon. We have been working with ILO and OHCHR IN Geneva to educate the Government of Cameroon to respect ILO Convention 169 that takes care of the marginalized indigenous groups of Cameroon such as the Pygmies and the Mbororos. RWEPA participated at the recently end COP2 of the UN convention on the promotion and protection of cultural diversity. We educate the rural populace through organizing them into village group meetings on aspects that shall improve on their livelihood without necessarily affecting their cultures. RWEPA is enjoying the SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS of the UNECOSOC from July 1999 till today ( copy of letter attached). RWEPA has also been working with the UNCBD, UNCCD; UNFCCC; and WIPO to promote and protect cultural diversity and identity of tribal and indigenous peoples, fight against global warming, and promote the sustainable use of the natural resources

The idea of protecting the sacred shrines of the Fondoms of North West Region: What rwepa is doing in the domain of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of the sacre shrines of the North West Fondoms is the fact that we provide meaningful advice to the king-makers to identify the successors early enough and start initiating them early enough into these secret societies which are generally believed to be for the wellbeing of their subjects. These mystical powers give them the wisdom and know how to be able to rule their villages. We have limitations because most of these fons cannot read nor write and are not also willing to release their secret to us because they say they shall remain powerless. At the same time, a lot of progress is being made in this domain since most of them are now designating their successors when they are still alive and even initiating

them into these secret societies. The most we are able to gather from all the encouragement process is the fact that initiation means endowing an individual with mystical powers such that this person can use certain leaves and other elements from his environment and his sacred shrine to able to transform into an animal of his choice to go sometime hunting or fetching traditional medicines to treat patients or even to protect his village from enemies. We also encourage the women who are farming around these shrines neither to lear, hoeing, nor to set bust fires around these shrines because destroying the shrine in any way means tempering with the mystical powers of the ancestors and their rulers. Certain species of animals such as the lion, the Tigers, elephants pythons, or crocodiles are considered as sacred because most the time, represent totems of the traditional rulers who are protecting their subjects, and as such are prohibited from being killed by hunters.

Another very serious activity that RWEPA is doing is to encourage the custodian of the "TEGUM" in the village of Enyoh in Momo Division, to train his successor so that the mystery should not dissape into one of the children. The Tegum is a place where people who are dead are called up by their family members to declare the cost of their death, and even distribute their property among their children without necessarily passing through a written will. They call the dead person's name and he /she answers and communicates with them. If the dead person had money of something very special that he/she was hiding somewhere he/she shall indicate and the family shall go and collect. Actually, before they go to the Tegum place the head of the family or the most elderly person takes a calabash of palm wine cover with a fresh plantain leaf that has been warmed lightly on the fire that has no whole, and puts it on the forehead of the dead person or his grave for at least 12 hours. The next day the sister of the dead person shall hold the calabash of wine and moves without talking until when they arrive at the "tegum place" and she hands the container to the Tegum. It is believed that when she talks the ghost of the dead person shall run away. The wine is poured into a whole on the floor of the sacred shrine, and shall call the name of the dead person three times. The ghost shall answer and the conversation starts. The North West regional Radio station in partnership with RWEPA carried out a documentary in 2006/2007 on the TEGUM traditional practice which was broadcasted over the national media in Cameroon. The present TEGUM is already training the son who sometimes seats in for him when he travels and people came from far and wide to investigate their problems from him.

Concerning the cultural festival, i shall take the example of the "NERE DANCE" of the Fondom of Bessi Awum which is a royal dance that is performed annually during the end of year or when then a prince is dead during his burial. Before the dance the traditional secret society or the Nguma House members perform certain traditional rituals on the eve of the dance in the night which are mainly meant to enhance the safety and protection of everybody where shall come for the festival, including the flute boys and the drummers. The dressing of the festival is very traditional with a bit of modernization covering most of the body. RWEPA has encourage the various parties to the traditional dance to undertake training sessions that shall enable their successors to be able to continue when they die. These sessions take place once a month in the palace and also the initiation process takes place gradually.

RWEPA has been working with the Bayangi people of the South West Region of Cameroon who possess extra ordinary myth of people dying and resurrecting to go elsewhere to work money to sponsor the families they let behind. The furthest we could go is that they use certain leaves and squeeze into the mouth of the young baby

immediately the child is delivered, or anytime even when the person is dead. Some people even keep their dead relatives and communicate with them and feed them and treat with them normally as if they were alive. They cook food and keep their own in a particular and they come at night and eat, and hand in whatever amount of money they have worked for the day.

### **7. Ses expériences de coopération avec les communautés, les groupes et les praticiens du patrimoine culturel immatériel**

Le Comité évalue si l'ONG qui fait une demande d'accréditation « coopère, dans un esprit de respect mutuel avec les communautés, les groupes et, le cas échéant, les individus créant, pratiquant et transmettant le patrimoine culturel immatériel » (Critère D). Veuillez décrire brièvement ici ces expériences.

*350 mots maximum ; veuillez ne pas joindre des informations complémentaires.*

Traditional rulers are an integral part of the executive of RWEPA. within RWEPA, they are schooled on the positive values of preserving and protecting their sacred shrines and cultural artifacts jealously. The sacred shrines such as those of the Tadkon Area in Batibo are protected and farming with the shrine is prohibited. RWEPA has been encouraging the twenty two villages of the Moghamo area in Batibo sub division in the North West Region to organize annual festivals every year around the end of year. This brings a lot of tourists and people from the Diaspora. We also encourage the various sub groups of the Diaspora to always organize cultural events yearly like the MEDA USA SUBGROUP, the Nigerian sub groups, the Bamako Sub Group and the fifteen national sub groups spread over the National territory. These cultural festivals help to educate their children that are delivered out of their native land to know the customs and traditions of their ancestors, and also to ensure the sustainability of the various positive cultural aspects that are existing in Cameroon. RWEPA has been actively participating at the international level since 1998 till today at various UN conferences to advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Cameroon. We have been working with ILO and OHCHR IN Geneva to educate the Government of Cameroon to respect ILO Convention 169 that takes care of the marginalized indigenous groups of Cameroon such as the Pygmies and the Mbororos. RWEPA participated at the recently end COP2 of the UN convention on the promotion and protection of cultural diversity.

### **8. Documentation sur les capacités opérationnelles de l'organisation**

Les Directives opérationnelles (paragraphe 94) exigent qu'une organisation demandant une accréditation soumette des documents prouvant qu'elle possède les capacités opérationnelles énoncées au Critère E. Ces pièces justificatives peuvent revêtir plusieurs formes, selon le régime juridique en vigueur dans chaque pays. Les documents présentés doivent être traduits si possible en français ou en anglais dans le cas où les originaux seraient dans une autre langue. Veuillez identifier clairement les pièces justificatives avec le point (8.a, 8.b ou 8.c) auxquels elles se réfèrent.

#### **8.a. Membres et personnel**

La preuve de l'implication des membres de l'organisation telle que demandée au critère E (i) peut prendre des formes aussi diverses qu'une liste des directeurs, une liste du personnel et des statistiques sur la quantité et les catégories de membres ; une liste complète des membres, n'est en principe, pas nécessaire.

*Veuillez présenter les pièces justificatives.*

**8.b. Personnalité juridique reconnue**

Si l'organisation a une charte, des articles de constitution, un règlement intérieur ou un document de création équivalent, un exemplaire doit être joint. Si, dans le cadre de la législation nationale en vigueur, l'organisation a une personnalité juridique reconnue par des moyens autres qu'un acte de constitution, veuillez fournir les pièces justificatives (par exemple, par la publication d'une annonce dans une gazette ou un journal officiel) montrant comment cette personnalité juridique a été établie.

*Veuillez présenter les pièces justificatives.*

**8.c. Durée d'existence et activités**

Si cela n'est pas déjà clairement indiqué dans les documents fournis au point 8.b., veuillez présenter les pièces justificatives prouvant que l'organisation existe depuis au moins quatre ans lors de sa demande d'accréditation. Veuillez présenter les documents montrant qu'elle a mené des activités de sauvegarde appropriées durant cette période, y compris celles décrites au point 6.c ci-dessus. Des documents supplémentaires tels que des livres, des CD, des DVD ou des publications similaires ne peuvent être pris en compte et ne doivent pas être soumis.

*Veuillez présenter les pièces justificatives.*

**9. Personne à contacter pour la correspondance**

Donnez le nom, l'adresse complète et tout autre renseignement pour contacter la personne à qui toute correspondance concernant la candidature doit être adressée. Si une adresse électronique ne peut être donnée, indiquez un numéro de télécopie.

ROSE ATENG MBAH, General Coordinator, B.P. 463, Sonac Street, Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. Tel/Fax 00237) 33361840. e-mail: rose\_mbah@yahoo.com

**10. Signature :**

Le formulaire doit inclure la signature de la personne habilitée à signer pour le compte de l'organisation qui demande l'accréditation. Les demandes sans signature ne peuvent être prises en compte.

**8a) LIST OF RWEPA SUB GROUP MEMBERS AND THE STATISTICS OF  
THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS /SUB GROUP:**

| <b>NAME OF SUB GROUP</b>                                 | <b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b> |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1) Konjeck Women's group                                 | 201                      |
| 2) Njimben Youth Association                             | 170                      |
| 3) Kunduh Women's Group                                  | 50                       |
| 4) Efah Women's group                                    | 145                      |
| 5) Tangabeck Women's group                               | 70                       |
| 6) Bengang Women's Association                           | 149                      |
| 7) Kuneck Rural Women's Association                      | 102                      |
| 8) Akooh Family Meeting Group                            | 467                      |
| 9) Bessi Women in Bamenda                                | 98                       |
| 10) Moghamo Women's Cultural and Development Association | 528                      |
| 11) Bessi Youth Association                              | 359                      |
| 12) Moghamo Elites Development Association – USA         | 2590                     |
| 13) Moghamo Coastal Elites in Muyuka                     | 461                      |
| 14) Tafada Meeting in Nigeria                            | 151                      |
| 15) RWEPA –MALI  | 77                       |
| 16) Njibujang Family Meeting                             | 201                      |
| 17) Cameroon Association of University Women             | 88                       |
| 18) Awei Farmer's Association                            | 140                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>6047members</b>       |



**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION COMMON INITIATIVE  
GROUP (R.W.E.P.A.) - A NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION**

**PREAMBLE**

- Cognisant of the desire to achieve a sustainable environment, development and life style thereby improving the living conditions of the rural populace.
- Considering the need to create awareness within the village setting in Cameroon by the popularisation of scientific knowledge to its population
- Conscious of the need to change human attitude towards the (or its) environment.
- Convinced of the necessity to establish family planning units in order to ensure a sustainable parenthood
- Mindful of the urgent need to improve on farming methods and equally promote biodiversity concern geared towards the protection of all living species.

WE CONCERNED CAMEROONIANS who are interested in ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION hereby ordain, establish and ratify this Article of Association for RURAL WOMEN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (R.W.E.P.A.).

**ARTICLE 1 - NAME:** There is hereby created a Non-Governmental Common Initiative Group known as RURAL WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION and ABBREVIATED (R.W.E.P.A.) hereinafter referred to as "THE GROUP".

**ARTICLE 2 - AIM:** The aim of the group is to bring together, sub-groups, institutions and dedicated men and women in order to seek common solutions to problems plaguing our environment, and the livelihood of the rural populace with special emphasis on women activities.

**ARTICLE 3 - OBJECTIVES:**

- (i) To train women in particular and the rural population in general on environmental protection technics, through organisation of seminars, workshops, training sessions, and follow-up programmes.
- (ii) To encourage the rural population to carry out and improve on anti-desertification activities such as reforestation and afforestation.
- (iii) To improve on the present practice of farming methods.
- (iv) To promote biodiversity concern and to adapt and improve on methods in the protection of all living species of plants, animals, micro-organisms and their existing ecosystems.
- (v) Raising awareness on family planning issues in order to guarantee a sustainable parenthood and also on issues concerning Demographic Management.
- (vi) Popularization of scientific technics necessary to take care of capacity building.
- (vii) Encouraging the idea of a micro-credit banking system "Thrift and Loan" societies to be created within the sub-groups to ensure the funding of feasible projects on preferential interest rates, and an acceptable conditions.

GENERALLY TO WORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE IN THE RURAL WORK.

**ARTICLE 4 - AREA OF ACTIVITY:**

The group shall carry out its activities mostly in the rural part of the North West Province in particular, and in Cameroon in general or as shall be directed by a resolution of the General Assembly of the Group as herein specified.

**ARTICLE 5 - DURATION OF GROUP:**

The group shall last for one hundred (100) years but this period could be extended by a resolution of the General Assembly on the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GROUP or any other time thereafter.

**ARTICLE 6 - OFFICE:**

The Head Office of the group shall be in Bamenda and with branches in other parts of Cameroon and Africa as shall be specified by a resolution of the General Assembly of the group. All correspondences to the group shall be forwarded to the following address:

R.W.E.P.A.  
C/O P.O. BOX 2186  
MANKON, BAMENDA  
*N.W. PROVINCE, CAMEROON*

**ARTICLE 7 - MEMBERSHIP:**

- (i) Membership into the group shall be opened to all village sub-groups, institutions and persons of high repute, who undertake to actively support the group, and pledge to abide by this constitution, rules, regulations and resolutions of the General Assembly of the group.
- (ii) No one or sub-group shall be admitted into the group as a member who has not paid their or his or her registration fees and levies as the case may be, as shall be determined by the Group's Annual General Assembly.
- (iii) Application for membership shall be on sub-group or on individual basis as the case may be, made to the Secretary or Delegate of the Group on the fulfilment of condition 7 (i) & (ii) above. The applicant's name shall be entered into a register provided for this purpose.
- (iv) Membership shall be renewed annually upon payment of the prescribed registration fees as per 7 (ii) above.

**ARTICLE 8 - RIGHTS AND LIMITATION OF A MEMBER:**

Once duly registered, a member shall be deemed to have:

- (i) Pledged to abide and adhere to the provisions of this ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION as well as general policies, rules, regulations and resolutions of the group as adopted by its general assembly.
- (ii) Accept to refrain from engaging or pursuing any cause of action that may be inconsistent or inimical to the interest of the group.
- (iii) Shall have a right to actively participate in the discussions, the passing of rules, regulations and resolutions, and the formulation of policies of the group, by the General Assembly.

**ARTICLE 9 - MANAGEMENT OF THE GROUP:**

The group shall be managed by an executive board who shall represent the group. The tenure of office for members of the executive board shall be four (4) years renewable.

**ARTICLE 10 - LOSE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership of the group shall be lost under the following circumstances:

- (i) Through death or incapacity resulting to lost of reasoning or mental handicap
- (ii) Resignation or withdrawal from the group
- (iii) Engaging in activities that are likely to affect the reputation, interest, and or discredit the group of its effectiveness. For iii to be adopted, at least 51% of members present at the General Assembly shall vote a resolution to this effect.

**ARTICLE 11 - COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**The Board shall consist of:**

- (1) Delegate
- (2) Secretary
- (3) Treasurer
- (4) Financial Secretary
- (5) Auditor
- (6) Adviser

**ARTICLE 12 - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**DELEGATE**

- (i) Shall handle all matters relating to the running and proper functioning of the group in collaboration with the other members of the executive board.
- (ii) Enforce rules, regulations and resolutions of the Group.
- (iii) Encourage and mobilise participation of group members in all activities of the group in collaboration with other members of the executive.
- (iv) Elaborate with other members of the executive board the annual plan of action, budget and organise meetings of the group.
- (v) Shall carefully manage the group's funds as approved by the General Assembly of the group.

In the absence of the Delegate, the Secretary shall assume the duties of the Delegate as shall be directed by a resolution of the General Assembly.

**SECRETARY**

- Shall ensure the proper handling of all records, correspondences, notices etc. of the group.
- Shall record with diligence minutes of executive meetings, General Assembly deliberations and other activities of the group.
- Shall work under the supervision of the Delegate of the Group as directed by a resolution of the General Assembly of the Group.

In the absence of the Secretary, any other member of the executive board shall assume the duties of the Secretary as shall be directed by a resolution of the General Assembly.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

- Shall record with diligence all financial activities of the Group.
- Shall ensure the proper collection of levies, dues and other form of contributions from members of the Group for onward transmission to the TREASURER of the group.

In collaboration with Treasurer of the group,

- Shall prepare a financial report and present it to the group during its General Assembly session as shall be directed by the General Assembly through a resolution.

**TREASURER**

- Shall receive money collected by the Financial Secretary and keep a proper record thereof. All expenses must be sanctioned by at least four (4) members of the executive board including the Delegate before the Treasurer disburse money to this effect.

**AUDITOR(S):**

- Shall audit the accounts of the group semi-annually and present a report to the General Assembly of the group after every report. A firm of authorised accountant shall be appointed by a resolution of General Assembly when need arises.
- The General Assembly through a resolution could order the immediate audit of the accounts of the group.

**ARTICLE 13 - ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION INTO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Only members of the group who have paid all their dues as determined by their General Assembly shall be voted into the executive board.

**ARTICLE 14 - VACANCY AND RESIGNATION OF MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

- (a) Any member of the executive may resign from office by giving a Ten (10) day's notice to the Delegate of the group or his immediate subordinate as the case may be.
- (b) Should a vacancy occur in the group, a General Assembly meeting shall be called to elect a new member to fill the vacancy. The member so elected shall remain in office for the unexpired period of the tenure of the office in question. As an interim measure, the Delegate shall appoint any member of the group in consultation with other board members to fill any vacancy until such a time when the General Assembly meets.
- (c) A member of the executive board may be removed during his tenure of office through a vote of no confidence against him or her passed by simple majority of registered members of the group.
- (d) In the event of death, resignation, disqualification, dismissal, or disability of any member of the executive board, such office shall be filled in the same manner as provided for in sub-paragraph

**ARTICLE 15 - BANK ACCOUNT**

- (a) The group shall maintain an account in any bank or financial institution of its choice.

**WITHDRAWAL:**

- (b) Any two (2) of the following members of the executive Board including the Delegate shall be valid signatories to permit withdrawal from its bank account and to ordain expenses and other Financial transactions.
- The Delegate
  - The Secretary
  - The Treasurer
  - The Financial Secretary

**ARTICLE 16 - INVESTMENTS, LOAN AND AID SCHEMES:**

All investment decisions shall be sanctioned by a resolution passed by a simple majority of the General Assembly. However, urgent investment decisions can be taken by the Delegate with the consent of a majority of the Executive Board members.

All applications for loans and aid from members shall be addressed to the Delegate, and in the absence of the Delegate, to the Secretary of the Group. Such applications shall be scrutinised by the executive board and must be approved by at least three (3) members of the executive board including one of the following: The Delegate, Secretary or Treasurer. The terms of all loan agreements shall be determined by a resolution of the general assembly.

**ARTICLE 17 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

Ordinary General Assembly shall hold once a year and shall be convened by a notice signed by the Delegate and Secretary of the Group.

If need arises, extra ordinary General Assembly sessions shall be convened on a motion signed by 51% of the registered members. Notice to this effect shall be served on the Delegate who shall within 7 days convene an extra ordinary General Assembly meeting.

In the event the Delegate fails to act, conveners of the extra-ordinary General Assembly shall meet and elect an adhoc committee of three (3) persons who shall sign notices and convene an extra ordinary General Assembly.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- Shall lay down rules and regulations of the Group by simple majority vote of members present, shall determine the General Policies of the Group.
- Shall generally by resolution take decisions in all domains affecting the group.

Resolutions of the Group shall be by simple majority of the Registered members of the Group in attendance of the General Assembly session.

**ARTICLE 18 - DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP**

- i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5 above, 4/5 registered and participatory members might pass a resolution ordering the dissolution of the Group in accordance with rules and regulations enforced.