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**BYLAWS OF THE GLOBAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH AND  
INNOVATION (GARI)**

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## **Article I – Name and Affiliation**

### **Section 1.01 – Name:**

The name of this organization shall be the **Global Association for Research and Innovation (GARI)**, herein referred to as “the Association.”

### **Section 1.02 – Legal Affiliation:**

The Association operates as an internationally governed, nonpartisan, professional body dedicated to advancing excellence in research and innovation. It functions independently under its own bylaws, governance structure, and executive leadership.

### **Section 1.03 – Operational Autonomy:**

GARI maintains full operational autonomy through its Executive Board, committees, programs, and membership. The Association sets and implements its own strategic priorities, initiatives, and partnerships in alignment with its global mission.

### **Section 1.04 – Future Independence:**

It is the intention of the founding body that GARI may evolve into an **independent legal entity** in the future. Upon such a transition, GARI shall retain its name, mission, and continuity of operations, subject to the laws of the jurisdiction in which it becomes incorporated.

## **Article II – Purpose and Objectives**

### **Section 2.01 – Purpose:**

The purpose of the Global Association for Research and Innovation (GARI) is to foster, support, and promote cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary innovation, and international collaboration across diverse fields of knowledge, with a strong emphasis on addressing global and regional challenges.

### **Section 2.02 – Core Objectives:**

The objectives of the Association shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **(a) Advance Research and Innovation:**

To support original research, applied innovation, and scholarly excellence through grants, fellowships, conferences, and collaborative projects.

#### **(b) Promote Knowledge Exchange:**

To serve as a platform for global dialogue and dissemination of knowledge among scholars, professionals, educators, policy makers, and innovators.

**(c) Support Emerging Scholars and Practitioners:**

To mentor and empower early-career researchers, professionals, and students by providing resources, training, networking, and recognition opportunities.

**(d) Enhance African and Global Participation:**

To amplify underrepresented voices and strengthen participation from Africa and other developing regions in global research and innovation landscapes.

**(e) Encourage Multidisciplinary Collaboration:**

To connect stakeholders across disciplines—such as technology, language, health, education, climate, and economics—to tackle complex societal challenges.

**(f) Promote Ethical and Inclusive Innovation:**

To ensure that research and innovation supported by the Association adhere to ethical standards, social responsibility, and inclusivity.

**(g) Support Language, Culture, and Indigenous Knowledge:**

To advocate for the preservation and advancement of African languages, cultural heritage, and indigenous knowledge systems through research and technological development.

**(h) Establish Global Partnerships:**

To form strategic alliances with academic institutions, innovation hubs, governments, and international bodies in pursuit of shared objectives.

## **Article III – Membership**

### **Section 3.1 Grades: The Grades of membership of the Institute shall be as follows:**

a. Fellow

b. Lifetime Member

c. Institutional Member

d. Senior/Professional Member

e. General Member

f. Student/Graduate Member

## Section 3.2 Eligibility, Designation and Decoration

The requirements and privileges for each membership grade shall be as follows:

### 3.2.1 Fellow (FeGARI)

#### 3.2.1.1 Eligibility and Selection

a) The grade of **Fellow (FeGARI)** is the highest honor bestowed by the Association. It is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements, made outstanding contributions, and had a sustained impact across a broad range of fields, including—but not limited to—the natural and formal sciences, engineering and technology, medical and health sciences, agriculture and environmental studies, the social sciences and humanities, education, law, business and management, the creative and performing arts, media and communication, as well as emerging interdisciplinary domains spanning both academic and industrial spheres.

b) Candidates for **Membership** should meet several of the following criteria, with a **minimum of five (5)** required for consideration:

1. Demonstrated excellence in their field through notable achievements such as awards, grants, patents, or significant innovations in industry or academia.
2. Substantial contributions to research projects or leadership in major academic, professional, or industry initiatives.
3. Presentation of original work at major conferences, symposia, exhibitions, or leading industry and cultural events.
4. Holding leadership roles in professional organizations, companies, academic institutions, or community-based initiatives.
5. Development of innovative technologies, processes, artistic works, or systems with measurable impact.
6. Dissemination of knowledge through high-impact academic journals, industry publications, mainstream media, public exhibitions, or creative platforms.
7. Demonstrated commitment to mentoring and developing emerging professionals, scholars, or artists in their field.
8. Successful application or commercialization of research, innovations, or creative work.
9. Integration and promotion of professional best practices within work environments, projects, or institutional frameworks.
10. Active engagement in interdisciplinary collaborations or partnerships bridging academia, industry, public service, or the creative sectors.
11. Evident potential for future leadership and impact within their area of expertise.

12. Recognition or honors received in the **natural and formal sciences, engineering and technology, medical and health sciences, agriculture and environmental studies, the social sciences and humanities, education, law, business and management, the creative and performing arts, media and communication, as well as emerging interdisciplinary domains spanning both academic and industrial spheres.**
13. Receipt of seed funding exceeding \$100,000 or founding a startup or creative enterprise with a valuation exceeding \$250,000 within a relatively short time frame.
14. Featured media coverage highlighting impactful contributions or pioneering achievements.
15. Leading a domestic enterprise or creative initiative to achieve international recognition or market dominance through strategic innovation and visionary leadership.
16. Driving the successful turnaround of a company, organization, or artistic institution—resulting in job preservation, community development, or sectoral revitalization.
17. Serving as a judge, curator, or expert evaluator in internationally recognized competitions, festivals, or review panels.
18. Designing professional frameworks, models, or strategies that incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, contributing to global sustainability and responsible innovation.
19. Delivering professional services, scientific expertise, or creative work to international companies, cultural institutions, or organizations with notable outcomes or influence.
20. Playing a leading or critical role in a distinguished organization, resulting in significant contributions to its goals and mission.
21. Inventing original tools, technologies, systems, or artistic techniques that have advanced practice or transformed industry standards.
22. Creating iconic works or performances that have achieved critical acclaim or cultural significance on national or international stages.
23. Pioneering new genres, disciplines, or professional practices that have influenced peers and advanced the field.
24. Introducing new methods, approaches, or methodologies that have improved effectiveness, enriched understanding, or sparked innovation in research, industry, or the arts.
25. Demonstrating excellence in teaching, curriculum development, or educational innovation, with measurable impact on student learning, institutional improvement, or educational policy.

## Section 3.3.1 Fellowship Membership (FeGARI)

### 3.3.1.1 Eligibility and Selection

- a) Membership at the grade of **Fellow (FeGARI)** is granted strictly by **invitation or nomination**, including self-nomination. All candidates must be **endorsed by at least two (2) established Fellows** of the Association. Following nomination, candidates undergo a multi-tiered selection process.
- b) The **selection process** shall include:
- i. A **rigorous peer review** of the candidate's contributions, achievements, and sustained impact in their field(s) of endeavor, with recognition at the **national or international level**, evidenced through awards, media coverage, global collaborations, or cross-border influence.
  - ii. **Meeting a minimum of five (5)** criteria as outlined in the Membership Eligibility Framework.
  - iii. **Evaluation by the Membership Committee**, composed of distinguished Fellows representing diverse disciplines and sectors.
  - iv. **Final approval by the Board of Directors**, ensuring adherence to the Association's standards of excellence and integrity.
- c) To preserve the prestige and exclusivity of this honor, the number of new Fellows elected annually **shall not exceed 10% of the total active Membership body**.
- d) In recognition of disciplinary excellence, Fellows **may be** designated by specialized domains such as:
- **FeGARI (SciTech)** – Science, Engineering, and Technology
  - **FeGARI (Arts & Culture)** – Creative and Performing Arts
  - **FeGARI (Arts & Humanities)** – languages, history, literature, philosophy
  - **FeGARI (Leadership & Policy)** – Governance, Public Policy, and Social Impact
  - **FeGARI (Health & Medicine)** – Medical Sciences, Public Health, Clinical Research
  - **FeGARI (Education & Pedagogy)** – Teaching, Curriculum Design, Learning Sciences
  - **FeGARI (Business & Innovation)** – Entrepreneurship, Economics, Management, Applied Innovation
  - **FeGARI (Law & Human Rights)** – Legal Studies, Justice Systems, International Law
  - **FeGARI (Environment & Sustainability)** – Environmental Science, Climate Policy, Sustainable Development
  - **FeGARI (Media & Communication)** – Journalism, Strategic Communication, Digital Media
  - **FeGARI (Interdisciplinary Impact)** – Cross-sectoral achievements spanning multiple fields

These designations are honorary and serve to highlight the diversity of excellence represented by GARI Fellows.

### 3.3.1.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Fellows

a) Fellows of the Association are entrusted with upholding the values and advancing the mission of GARI. As such, Fellows are expected to:

- i. Serve as **ambassadors** for the Association and for excellence in their respective fields.
- ii. Actively participate in **mentorship and capacity-building programs** for early-career professionals, researchers, and students.
- iii. Contribute to the Association's **strategic initiatives**, policy development, and global programs.
- iv. Engage in **peer review** processes for Membership nominations, publications, awards, and grants.
- v. Promote the advancement of **interdisciplinary research, innovation, and collaboration** worldwide.
- vi. Serve as **evaluators, jurors, or judges** in Association-led panels, awards, grants, and global competitions.

b) Fellows are entitled to use the **post-nominal designation FeGARI** (Fellow of the Global Association for Research and Innovation) in recognition of their distinguished status.

### 3.3.1.3 Recognition and Benefits

a) New Fellows shall be formally **inducted during the Annual Fellowship and Awards Ceremony**, where they will receive an official **Certificate of Fellowship** (and Plaque, if selected).

b) Fellows shall receive **priority consideration** for representing the Association at international conferences, summits, government advisory panels, multilateral forums, and policy dialogues.

c) The Association shall maintain a **Fellow Spotlight Program**, regularly showcasing the achievements, innovations, and impact of its Fellows across official publications, websites, and media platforms.

d) Each Fellow shall receive a formal **Letter of Distinction and Endorsement**, signed by the President and Chair of the Board, attesting to their extraordinary achievements and international standing.

e) The Association shall maintain a **Global Registry of Distinguished Fellows (FeGARI)**, publicly accessible on the Association's website and shared with institutional partners and international bodies to promote global recognition of Fellows.

### 3.3.1.4 Membership Committee: Selection and Composition

a) **Purpose of the Membership Committee:**

The Membership Committee is responsible for **reviewing, evaluating, and recommending candidates** for Fellowship (FeGARI). The Committee ensures that only those who have demonstrated **extraordinary accomplishments and sustained impact** in research, innovation, or professional practice across diverse fields are granted this prestigious status.



#### b) **Composition of the Membership Committee:**

The Membership Committee shall be composed of **nationally and internationally recognized Fellows** who have demonstrated excellence and leadership within their disciplines. Members shall reflect the Association's commitment to **diversity, interdisciplinarity, and global standards of excellence**.

##### **3.3.1.5 Fellowship Registry and Public Recognition**

The Association shall maintain a **Global Registry of Distinguished Fellows (FeGARI)**, publicly accessible on its website. This registry will serve as a source of visibility and verification for external institutions, partners, and international bodies.

##### **3.3.1.6 Nomination Package and Documentation**

All nominations must include:

- A current Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Professional Portfolio
- A summary of key contributions, innovations, or works
- Evidence of meeting at least five selection criteria
- At least two letters of recommendation from established Fellows or field experts
- Supporting documentation such as press coverage, awards, patents, scholarly citations, media links, or artistic works

Preference may be given to candidates whose work has led to **measurable public impact** at a national or international level, influenced **policy change**, or contributed to **societal innovation or global development goals**.

#### **3.3.1 Members (both individual and organizations)**

##### **3.3.1.2 Lifetime Member**

For individuals committed to GARI's long-term mission.

- One-time membership fee for lifetime access.
- Lifetime recognition and exclusive privileges.
- Invitations to high-level summits, leadership forums, and advisory groups.

##### **3.3.1.3 Institutional Member**

For universities, research institutes, corporations, think tanks, and NGOs.

- Institutional logo featured on the GARI website and selected publications.
- Multi-user access to GARI resources for up to 10 organizational representatives.
- Exclusive partnership opportunities and access to institutional roundtables.



#### **3.3.1.4 Senior/Professional Member**

For experienced academics, researchers, and industry leaders with a track record of significant contributions.

- Priority for speaking opportunities at GARI events.
- Eligibility to serve on GARI committees, working groups, and journal editorial boards.
- Enhanced visibility within the GARI community.

#### **3.3.1.5 General Member**

For early to mid-career professionals and researchers across disciplines.

- Full access to GARI's resources, journals, and global communities.
- Discounted rates for GARI conferences, workshops, and webinars.
- Participation in research networks and collaborative projects.

#### **3.3.1.6 Student/Graduate Member**

For undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in research, academia, or industry.

- Access to GARI journals and research networks.
- Discounted registration for GARI events.
- Eligibility for mentorship programs.

#### **3.3.1.7 Membership Dues and Assessments**

##### **a. Authority to Establish Dues**

The Executive Board shall have the authority to establish and revise membership dues and special assessments, taking into account the financial needs, programs, and strategic priorities of the Association for Research and Innovation.

##### **b. Notification of Changes**

Members shall be given written notice of any changes to dues or assessments no less than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such changes.

##### **c. Payment Requirements**

Annual membership dues shall be payable by a date determined by the Executive Board. A member who fails to remit dues within sixty (60) days of the due date may be subject to suspension of membership privileges. Failure to remit dues within ninety (90) days may result in termination of membership in accordance with Section 3.3.1.8.

#### **d. Hardship Waivers and Reductions**

The Executive Board may, upon written request and justification, approve full or partial waivers or reductions in dues for students, early-career researchers, or members facing financial hardship. Waivers shall be reviewed annually.

#### **e. Allocation of Dues**

All membership dues and assessments shall be used solely to advance the mission of the Association, including but not limited to research dissemination, innovation initiatives, member services, capacity-building programs, and administrative expenses.

### **3.3.1.8 Termination of Membership**

#### **a. Grounds for Termination**

Membership in the Association may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- i. Non-payment of membership dues beyond ninety (90) days after the due date, following reasonable notice.
- ii. Violation of the Association's bylaws, policies, or code of conduct.
- iii. Conduct deemed detrimental to the mission, integrity, or reputation of the Association.
- iv. Written resignation submitted to the Secretary or Executive Board.

#### **b. Procedure for Termination**

Except in cases of voluntary resignation or non-payment of dues, a member shall be given written notice of the proposed termination, including the grounds, and shall be provided the opportunity to respond in writing within fifteen (15) days. The Executive Board shall review the matter and issue a decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the member's response or the expiration of the response period.

#### **c. Suspension of Membership Privileges**

Prior to formal termination, the Executive Board may suspend a member's privileges, including voting rights, access to member-only resources, and participation in Association events, if the member:

- i. Fails to pay dues within sixty (60) days of the due date;
- ii. Is under investigation for conduct potentially harmful to the Association; or
- iii. Is found in temporary breach of policies, pending corrective action.

Suspension shall be communicated in writing and shall remain in effect until the issue is resolved or the membership is formally terminated under this section.

#### **d. Appeal**

A member whose membership is terminated under Subsection (a)(ii) or (a)(iii) may appeal the decision to the General Assembly at the next scheduled meeting. The decision of the General Assembly shall be final.

#### **e. Reinstatement**

A former member who was terminated due to non-payment of dues may apply for reinstatement upon full payment of outstanding dues, subject to approval by the Executive Board. Members

terminated for cause under Subsection (a)(ii) or (a)(iii) may only be reinstated with a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

## **Article IV – Governance**

### **Section 4.01 – Governing Structure:**

The Global Association for Research and Innovation (GARI) shall be governed by a **Board of Directors**, supported by **Executive Officers** and, where applicable, **Advisory Committees**. The Board shall serve as the highest decision-making body of the Association.

### **Section 4.02 – Board of Directors:**

#### **(a) Composition:**

The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than five (5) and no more than fifteen (15) individuals, drawn from diverse disciplines, professional backgrounds, and geographic regions. Board members shall be selected based on expertise, commitment to GARI's mission, and demonstrated leadership in research, innovation, or policy.

#### **(b) Responsibilities:**

The Board shall:

- Provide strategic leadership and oversight of the Association's mission and activities.
- Approve annual budgets, strategic plans, and major initiatives.
- Oversee membership, appointments, and any disciplinary actions.
- Approve policies and amendments to the Bylaws.
- Evaluate GARI's progress toward international recognition and sustainable autonomous governance.

#### **(c) Terms of Office:**

Board members shall serve a term of three (3) years, renewable once, unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the Board.

### **Section 4.03 – Executive Officers:**

#### **(a) Officers:**

The Executive Officers shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other roles deemed necessary by the Board.

#### **(b) Duties:**

- **President:** Serves as the chief representative and spokesperson of the Association; presides over meetings and oversees implementation of strategic objectives.
- **Vice President:** Supports the President and assumes leadership in their absence.
- **Executive Secretary:** Maintains official records, minutes, and correspondence of the Association.

- **Treasurer:** Manages financial records, prepares financial reports, and oversees budget implementation.

**(c) Appointment:**

Executive Officers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years, renewable once.

**Section 4.04 – Advisory Committees:**

The Board may establish standing or ad hoc advisory committees to provide expert advice, oversee special projects, or coordinate initiatives aligned with the Association’s mission.

**Section 4.05 – Decision-Making and Quorum:**

- (a) A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for conducting official business.
- (b) Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.
- (c) In cases where consensus cannot be reached, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section 4.06 – Oversight and Authority:**

The Executive Board shall hold final authority over all financial, legal, and contractual decisions of the Association. All such decisions must align with GARI’s mission, comply with applicable legal and regulatory standards, and be documented in accordance with internal policies and financial procedures.

**Article V – Meetings**

**Section 5.01 – Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

- (a) The Association shall hold an **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** each calendar year for the purpose of reviewing progress, electing officers (if applicable), and discussing strategic priorities.
- (b) The AGM shall be open to all members in good standing and may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.
- (c) Notice of the AGM shall be issued to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance.

**Section 5.02 – Board of Directors Meetings:**

- (a) The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice (2) annually to review policies, approve budgets, and address governance matters.
- (b) Special meetings may be called by the President or by a written request of at least one-third of the Board members.
- (c) A majority of current Board members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 5.03 – Committee Meetings:**

Committees established by the Board shall meet as needed to fulfill their assigned duties. Committee chairs shall report activities and recommendations to the Board.

**Section 5.04 – Special and Emergency Meetings:**

Special or emergency meetings of the Association or its governing bodies may be called at the discretion of the President or the Board in response to urgent matters. Notice shall be given as early as possible, but no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance for emergency meetings.

**Section 5.05 – Notice and Communication:**

Meeting notices, agendas, and related documents shall be delivered via electronic means unless otherwise requested. All official meetings and communications shall be conducted in English.

**Section 5.06 – Voting Procedures:**

- (a) Voting during meetings may be conducted in person, electronically, or through secure digital platforms.
- (b) Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote unless a different voting threshold is specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- (c) Proxy voting may be permitted at the discretion of the Board, subject to rules established in advance.

**Section 5.07 – Recordkeeping:**

Minutes of all official meetings shall be recorded by the Secretary or a designated individual and made available to members and stakeholders as appropriate.

**Article VI – Financial Management****Section 6.01 – Fiscal Year:**

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6.02 – Financial Oversight:**

- (a) The Association's financial activities shall be managed under the oversight of the Treasurer and governed by policies approved by the Board of Directors.
- (b) While GARI operates with full financial oversight and independent budgeting, its membership dues and certain financial transactions may be processed through the administrative systems of Wenjibra University LLC, its founding sponsor, until a separate financial entity is established. This arrangement does not affect GARI's operational or governance autonomy.
- (c) All funds shall be used exclusively in furtherance of the Association's nonprofit mission.

**Section 6.03 – Banking and Accounts:**

- (a) The Association shall maintain its financial accounts in a federally recognized financial institution.
- (b) All bank accounts must be established in the name of the Association under the legal authority of Wenjibra University LLC, until full autonomy is achieved.
- (c) Disbursements shall require the approval and signatures of at least two authorized officers, one of whom must be the Treasurer or the President.

**Section 6.04 – Budgeting:**

- (a) The Treasurer, in consultation with the President and Executive Officers, shall prepare an annual budget for review and approval by the Board of Directors.
- (b) No expenditures shall be made that exceed the approved budget without prior authorization by the Board.

**Section 6.05 – Financial Reporting:**

- (a) The Treasurer shall present a financial report at each regular Board meeting and a comprehensive

financial statement at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

(b) Annual financial statements shall include all income, expenditures, assets, and liabilities.

#### **Section 6.06 – Audits and Reviews:**

The Board may appoint an independent auditor or financial reviewer to examine the Association's accounts annually or as needed. Audit results shall be shared with the Board and, where appropriate, the membership.

#### **Section 6.07 – Grants, Donations, and Revenue:**

(a) The Association may seek and accept grants, donations, and other sources of revenue in support of its objectives.

(b) All such funds must be used in accordance with the Association's mission and must comply with relevant legal and reporting obligations.

(c) The Board shall ensure transparency and accountability in the use of externally sourced funds.

#### **Section 6.08 – Asset Ownership and Liabilities:**

(a) While the Association transitions toward full legal independence, any assets or liabilities managed through Wenjibra University LLC shall be held in trust and administered solely for the benefit of GARI, in accordance with Board-approved decisions and financial policies.

(b) Upon GARI's formal legal incorporation as an independent entity, all relevant assets and liabilities may be lawfully transferred to the Association, subject to applicable regulations and approval by the Board of Directors.

### **Article VII – Committees**

#### **Section 7.01 – Establishment of Committees:**

The Board of Directors may establish standing and ad hoc committees as necessary to carry out the mission, programs, and operations of the Association.

#### **Section 7.02 – Standing Committees:**

The following standing committees may be established by the Board to support core functions of the Association:

- **Executive Committee:** Comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer; empowered to make decisions between Board meetings within defined limits.
- **Finance and Audit Committee:** Responsible for overseeing financial planning, budgeting, and audits.
- **Membership and Outreach Committee:** Handles member recruitment, retention, and engagement.
- **Programs and Events Committee:** Plans and executes conferences, webinars, fellowships, and other activities.
- **Research and Publications Committee:** Oversees scholarly initiatives, journal submissions, and research collaborations.

**Section 7.03 – Ad Hoc Committees:**

The Board may form temporary (ad hoc) committees to address specific projects or needs, such as strategic planning, elections, or partnerships. These committees dissolve upon completion of their tasks unless extended by the Board.

**Section 7.04 – Committee Composition and Appointment:**

- (a) Committee members shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Board and may include Directors, members, or external advisors.
- (b) Committee Chairs shall be selected by the President or elected by committee members, as determined by the Board.
- (c) The President and Executive Director (if applicable) shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of all committees unless otherwise stated.

**Section 7.05 – Roles and Responsibilities:**

Each committee shall operate under a defined scope, timeline, and set of deliverables approved by the Board. Committees shall report regularly to the Board and submit written summaries of meetings and outcomes.

**Section 7.06 – Authority and Limitations:**

Committees shall function in an advisory capacity unless delegated specific authority by the Board. No committee shall act independently on behalf of the Association without express Board approval.

**Article VIII – Amendments****Section 8.01 – Amendment Authority:**

These Bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment(s) is provided to each Director at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

**Section 8.02 – Member Input:**

Proposed amendments may also be submitted by any voting member of the Association in writing to the Secretary, who shall forward them to the Board of Directors for review. The Board shall consider such proposals and may choose to adopt, revise, or reject them.

**Section 8.03 – Legal Compliance:**

All amendments to these Bylaws must be consistent with applicable laws governing nonprofit and professional associations. Where financial or administrative functions involve third-party facilitation by GARI's founding sponsor, such amendments shall remain aligned with the governing principles of autonomy and fiduciary responsibility as approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 8.04 – Effective Date:**

Amendments shall become effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise stated in the resolution adopting the amendment.



## **Article IX – Dissolution**

### **Section 9.01 – Voluntary Dissolution:**

The Association may be dissolved voluntarily by a resolution approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors and ratified by a majority of the voting membership at a duly called meeting.

### **Section 9.02 – Conditions for Dissolution:**

Dissolution may occur under the following circumstances:

- The Association has fulfilled its mission and is no longer needed.
- Financial insolvency or the inability to maintain operations.
- Strategic decision to merge with or be absorbed by another organization with similar goals.
- Transition to an independent legal entity, separate from Wenjibra University LLC, when such a step is deemed necessary by the Executive Board and in accordance with applicable legal procedures.

### **Section 9.03 – Distribution of Assets:**

In the event of dissolution, and after payment or provision for payment of all liabilities, the assets of the Association shall be distributed exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes, in a manner consistent with the mission of the Association and applicable laws. Such distribution shall be determined by the Board of Directors and may be made to one or more nonprofit organizations with similar goals and values.

### **Section 9.04 – Notification and Reporting:**

The Association shall ensure that all required legal notices and filings are submitted to relevant state and federal agencies, including dissolution notices, final tax filings, and closure of accounts and registrations.

## **Article X – Fellowship Program**

### **Section 10.01 – Purpose of the Fellowship:**

The GARI Fellowship Program is established to recognize and support exceptional individuals conducting pioneering research, development, or innovation in fields aligned with the Association's mission. Fellowships are awarded to promote interdisciplinary collaboration, global knowledge exchange, and advancements that contribute to educational, technological, and scientific innovation.

### **Section 10.02 – Eligibility Requirements:**

Fellowship applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic or professional achievements in relevant fields such as education, innovation, artificial intelligence, computational linguistics, sustainability, health sciences, or other priority areas defined by the Association. Specific eligibility criteria and required qualifications shall be published with each call for applications.

### **Section 10.03 – Application and Selection Process:**

(a) **Call for Applications:** Public calls for applications will be announced via the Association's

website and relevant academic and professional networks.

(b) **Proposal Submission:** Applicants must submit a detailed proposal or research plan, curriculum vitae, references, and any additional documents required.

(c) **Selection Panel:** A Fellowship Committee composed of nationally and internationally recognized experts will be appointed by the Board of Directors to evaluate proposals.

(d) **Evaluation Criteria:** Applications will be assessed based on innovation, feasibility, potential impact, scalability, and alignment with GARI's mission.

(e) **Interviews:** Finalists may be invited for interviews or presentations before the panel.

(f) **Final Selection:** The Fellowship Committee shall recommend candidates to the Board for final approval.

#### **Section 10.04 – Roles and Responsibilities of Fellows:**

Selected Fellows are expected to:

- Conduct the proposed research or innovation project with integrity and rigor.
- Submit progress reports and a final project report within specified timelines.
- Participate in GARI events such as conferences, webinars, or mentoring programs.
- Acknowledge GARI's support in all related publications or presentations.

#### **Section 10.05 – Duration and Support:**

Fellowships may be offered for varying durations (e.g., 6 months to 2 years), as determined by the scope of the project. Fellows may receive financial support, mentorship, access to institutional resources, or other forms of assistance as outlined in the fellowship award terms.

#### **Section 10.06 – Termination of Fellowship:**

The Association reserves the right to terminate a fellowship for misconduct, failure to comply with project expectations, or misrepresentation of qualifications. A due process involving written notification and an opportunity for the Fellow to respond shall be observed.

#### **Section 10.07 – Recognition:**

Outstanding Fellows may be recognized through GARI publications, honorary mentions, or awards and may be invited to join GARI advisory roles or committees upon successful completion of their fellowship.

### **Article XI – Publications and Knowledge Dissemination**

#### **Section 11.01 – Purpose:**

The Association is committed to advancing global knowledge and innovation through the publication and dissemination of high-quality research, policy papers, case studies, conference proceedings, and other scholarly and professional works.

#### **Section 11.02 – Official Publications:**

(a) **Journals and Reports:** GARI may publish peer-reviewed journals, white papers, technical reports, and research briefs that align with its mission and objectives.

(b) **Conference Proceedings:** Scholarly contributions from GARI-sponsored events, such as symposia and conferences, may be compiled and published for broader dissemination.

(c) **Newsletters and Bulletins:** Periodic newsletters and bulletins will be issued to members and stakeholders, providing updates on Association activities, fellowship programs, calls for papers, and global research developments.

**Section 11.03 – Open Access and Distribution:**

GARI supports open access to knowledge and may publish selected materials under open access licenses to ensure global availability and impact. All publications shall be distributed through digital platforms, and when feasible, in print.

**Section 11.04 – Editorial Oversight:**

(a) All official publications shall be managed by editorial boards appointed by the Board of Directors or a designated Publications Committee.

(b) Editorial boards shall include experts with appropriate academic or professional credentials and ensure the integrity, quality, and peer-review standards of all publications.

**Section 11.05 – Intellectual Property:**

Authors retain intellectual property rights to their work unless otherwise specified. GARI reserves the right to disseminate published materials under terms agreed upon at the time of submission or publication.

**Section 11.06 – Contributions by Fellows and Members:**

Fellows, members, and partners of the Association are encouraged to contribute to GARI publications. Works derived from GARI-funded research or fellowship projects shall acknowledge the Association and may be prioritized for publication.

**Section 11.07 – Translation and Multilingual Access:**

To promote inclusivity and accessibility, GARI may translate selected publications into other languages, especially under-represented and African languages, in alignment with its mission to support global knowledge diversity.

**Article XII – Ethics and Professional Conduct**

**Section 12.01 – Commitment to Ethical Standards:**

The Association and its members are committed to the highest standards of ethical behavior, integrity, transparency, and professionalism in all academic, research, administrative, and collaborative activities.

**Section 12.02 – Code of Conduct for Members:**

All members, officers, and affiliates of GARI shall:

- Uphold honesty, fairness, and respect in all interactions.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any potential ethical concerns.
- Promote inclusivity and equitable participation regardless of nationality, gender, race, or background.
- Respect intellectual property and academic freedom.

- Refrain from harassment, discrimination, or any form of unethical behavior in any Association-sponsored platform or event.

### **Section 12.03 – Research Ethics:**

GARI supports responsible research practices and requires that all projects and publications:

- Adhere to principles of academic integrity and rigor.
- Acknowledge sources and give proper attribution.
- Ensure the protection of human subjects where applicable, including informed consent and ethical review.
- Avoid plagiarism, data manipulation, and fraudulent representation of results.

### **Section 12.04 – Reporting and Addressing Violations:**

(a) Any member who witnesses or experiences unethical behavior or misconduct may report it in confidence to the Ethics Committee or designated officer of the Association.

(b) All reports will be reviewed promptly and fairly, with appropriate actions taken based on the severity and nature of the issue.

(c) Individuals found to be in violation of ethical standards may face disciplinary actions including warning, suspension, expulsion, or termination of fellowships or other privileges.

### **Section 12.05 – Ethics Committee:**

An Ethics Committee shall be established by the Board of Directors to oversee the implementation and enforcement of this Code. The Committee shall:

- Provide ethical guidance to members and leadership.
- Investigate reported cases of misconduct.
- Recommend corrective or disciplinary measures as needed.

### **Section 12.06 – Continuous Improvement:**

The Association is committed to ongoing evaluation and improvement of its ethical standards and practices and may revise this Code periodically in response to new developments or feedback from members.

## **Article XIII – Regional Chapters and Global Hubs**

### **Section 13.01 – Purpose and Scope:**

To advance its mission globally and support localized engagement, GARI may establish Regional Chapters and Global Hubs that serve as extensions of the Association's programs, events, and collaborations in specific geographic regions.

**Section 13.02 – Establishment:**

- (a) Regional Chapters may be formed in countries, continents, or linguistic zones where there is demonstrated interest and capacity to carry out the Association's objectives.
- (b) Global Hubs may be established in strategic academic or innovation centers to facilitate international collaboration, research exchange, and outreach.

**Section 13.03 – Authorization and Oversight:**

All Regional Chapters and Global Hubs must be formally authorized by the Board of Directors. Each shall operate under a charter approved by the Board and be accountable to the central governance of GARI.

**Section 13.04 – Local Leadership:**

Each Chapter or Hub shall appoint a Chapter Coordinator or Director, approved by GARI's leadership, who will:

- Lead local initiatives in alignment with GARI's mission.
- Represent the Chapter or Hub in Association-wide meetings.
- Submit regular reports and updates on local activities.

**Section 13.05 – Activities and Responsibilities:**

Chapters and Hubs may:

- Organize conferences, workshops, fellowships, and networking events.
- Promote membership and represent the Association locally.
- Partner with academic institutions, government bodies, and industry stakeholders.
- Facilitate publications and research collaboration at the local or regional level.

**Section 13.06 – Compliance and Support:**

All Chapters and Hubs must comply with GARI's bylaws, ethical standards, and strategic priorities. They shall receive technical and administrative support from the Association's Secretariat and may apply for funding through designated internal grants or partnerships.

**Section 13.07 – Review and Dissolution:**

The performance and relevance of each Chapter or Hub shall be reviewed periodically. Any Chapter or Hub found inactive, non-compliant, or misaligned with the Association's mission may be dissolved by the Board of Directors.

**Article XIV – Certificate of Adoption****Section 14.01 – Certification:**

These Bylaws of the Global Association for Research and Innovation (GARI) were duly adopted by the founding leadership of the Association on the date set forth below, in accordance with its internal governance procedures. GARI acknowledges the foundational administrative support of Wenjibra University LLC during its formation, while operating independently under its own charter.

**Section 14.02 – Official Adoption:**

The adoption of these Bylaws signifies the formal establishment of the operating framework of the Association and shall serve as the governing rules for its structure, conduct, and operations unless and until amended in accordance with the procedures outlined herein.


**Section 14.03 – Signatories:**

In witness whereof, the undersigned officers hereby certify that these Bylaws were reviewed, adopted, and entered into official record by the founding Executive Board of the **Global Association for Research and Innovation (GARI)**.

**Adopted this 15th day of June, 2023  
At Austin, TX, USA**


**Signed:**

**Signed on behalf of the Executive Board:**

Signature: 

*Chair, Board of Directors*

**Global Association for Research and Innovation**

Signature: 

*Executive Secretary*

**Global Association for Research and Innovation**

Signature: 

*Founding Board Member*

**Global Association for Research and Innovation**

