**STATUTS**

**Geneva Institute of Trade for Peace**

***Preamble***

WHEREAS many developing, least developed countries (LDCs), and fragile and conflict-affected states (FCS) facing specific challenges on their way to create environment conducive to sustainable peace through integration into global economy based on inclusiveness, and justice.

Realizing the potential of inclusive, representative, and fragility-sensitive trade policy founded on the vision of shared peace and prosperity to help addressing the above-mentioned challenges.

Recognizing the role of international trade as a universal instrument for economic growth, development, and ensuring that trade policies and sustainable peace are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

Underling the need to facilitate their integration and effective participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to enable them to fully realize their trade potential, facing specific conflict-related challenges and building their economic foundation through WTO-related structural reforms.

WHEREAS a group of people convinced of the importance of the meaningful and effective participation of developing countries and LDCs, in the international trading system as a powerful instrument for fostering cooperation, peace, and sustainable development, committed themselves to work together to advance the national and international efforts for harnessing trade for peace.

**Chapter One**

(Name, Legal Status, Portfolio, and Objectives)

Article 1 – Name

The name of the association isGeneva Institute of Trade for Peace, hereinafter, (GITP).

Article 2 – Legal Status

GITP is an independent, apolitical and not-for-profit association as defined by article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code (Code civil Suisse) of 10 December 1907.

Article 3 – Portfolio

GITP is conceived as a global association established in Switzerland with partners, activities, and work relationship in other regions of the world.

Article 4 – Objectives

The overall objectives of GITP are the following:

* 1. Raising awareness and knowledge about the importance of the effective participation of the FCS in the international trading system for the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable development and peace.
  2. Support the work of the developing countries, LDCs and fragile and conflict-affected states through research, technical assistance, and education, notably in their efforts to effective inclusion into multilateral trade system.
  3. Supporting activities aimed at creating a world where commerce becomes a powerful instrument for fostering cooperation, peace, and sustainable development.
  4. Establishing an enduring platform for these countries to actively engage and thrive within the realms of international trade.

**Chapter Two**

(Means and Methods)

Article 1 – Means

GITP shall employ different advocacy means and methods to achieve its objectives.

Article 2 – Methods

2.1. Monitor developments that take place in the international trading system.

2.2 Sensitize public opinions of governments, groups and individuals to the specific concerns and challenges facing the LDCs and FCS on their trade for peace agenda.

2.3. Advocacy for coherence and mutual supportive development policies by engaging diverse stakeholders.

2.4. Advocacy for responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making process at both national and international levels.

2.5. Provide technical and material support to eligible civil society organizations active in areas of GITP competence and share its objectives.

**Chapter Three**

(Organs, Governance and Mechanisms)

Article 1 – The main organs of GITP are the following:

* 1. The General Assembly
  2. The Executive Board
  3. The Executive Secretariat

Article 2 – The General Assembly

2.1. The General Assembly, hereinafter to be referred to as the Assembly, is the sovereign and highest decision-making body of GITP. It shall convene at least once a year, in person, at a venue to be determined by Executive Secretariat.

2.2. General Assembly is composed of members of GITP who filled application forms and received acceptance notification from GITP Executive Secretariat

2.3. The Assembly shall

1. Elect/designate members of the Executive Board.
2. Discuss and adopt the general policy guidelines, approve the overall projects, and means and methods of work.
3. Discuss and approve the budget and activity reports.
4. Adoption and amendment of this statute
5. Nomination, surveillance, and revocation of the External auditors
6. Admission and exclusion of Members
7. Decision on the dissolution or merger of the Institute.

2.4 Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly

Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly may be called by the Board or at the request of at least 20 percent of all Members.

2.5 Convocation

The Board shall convene the meetings of the General Assembly with a 4 weeks’ notice. The agenda of the meetings must be sent with the invitations. The invitations may be sent by post or by e-mail.

2.6 Quorum

The General Assembly is validly instituted if at least one third of the members are present.

2.7 Chair

The Chair, and in his/her absence the Deputy Chair shall chair the meetings of the General Assembly.

2.8 Meeting modes

Meetings can be held either (i) onsite, whether in Switzerland or abroad, (ii) by video conference, or (iii) in a hybrid manner (mix of onsite and video conference), provided that all requirements for onsite general assembly meetings are fulfilled.

Article 3 – Decision Making and Voting Rights

3.1 Voting rights

Each Member shall have an equal voting right at the General Assembly.

3.2. Power of attorney

Members may vote in person or by proxy.

3.3. Process

Voting takes place by a show of hands or through an electronic voting process. Upon request of at least [one-fifth] of the Members, voting may take place by secret ballot.

3.4. Majority of votes

All decisions shall require a simple majority of all votes expressed (including votes by proxy), insofar as the present Statute do not provide for a different majority.

Article 4 – The Executive Board

4.1. The Executive Board, hereinafter to be referred to as the Board, which is elected according to Article 2, sub-article 2.3. of this Chapter is the main policymaker, advisory and supervisory organ of GITP. It is to formulate and follow up implementation of policies and projects approved by the Assembly.

4.2. The Board is composed of 5 members to be elected by the Assembly, including the Chairperson, the General Secretary, and the Treasurer.

4.3. The Board shall Issue the necessary internal rules of procedures to organize GITP’s work.

4.4 Pro-bono

a. Board members shall act on a pro bono basis, except for reimbursement of their effective costs and travel expenses.

b. Potential attendance fees may not exceed those paid for official commissions of the Canton of Geneva.

c. For activities that exceed the usual scope of the function, each Board member may receive appropriate compensation.

d. Paid employees of the Association may only sit on the Board in an advisory capacity.

4.5 At least one member of the Board with individual signatory powers, or two members of the Board with collective signatory powers, must be domiciled in Switzerland and have access to the list of members.

Article 5 – Key Officers

The key office bearers of GITP are the following:

* 1. The Chairperson
  2. The General Secretary
  3. The Treasurer

Article 6 – Executive Secretariat

6.1. The Executive Secretariat, hereinafter the Secretariat, is to be composed partly of the officers stated in Article 5 of this Chapter.

6.2. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the implementation of GITP’s activities and shall act with the power and authority of the Board between its sessions.

6.3. The Secretariat shall make arrangement for the maintenance of office(s) to administer GITP activity and projects.

Article 7 – Members

7.1 Members of the GITP shall consist of individuals or institutions who have an interest in the purpose and the activities of the institute and wish to support them. The founders are the initial Members of the Institute.

7.2 Additional Members may join the GITP by submitting a written application to the Board.

7.3 The Board shall review applications, before submitting them to the General Assembly for approval.

Article 8 – Membership ceases:

8.1 Upon the resignation of the Member addressed to the Board at least 6 months before the end of the calendar year.

8.2 Upon death of the Member if such Member is an individual and not the representative of an institution.

**Chapter Four**

(Decision-making)

Article 1 – Decision-Making

1.1 Decisions of GITP shall - when otherwise not stated - be taken by simple majority of members present in a formal meeting.

1.2 Members of the Board shall meet in person at least twice during the fiscal year.

1.3 Necessary decisions of urgent nature in between meetings of the Board may be taken via telecommunications devices such as Internet, telephone, or fax.

1.4 The Secretariat adopts its decision-making guidelines and staff regulations.

**Chapter Five**

(Financial Resources)

Article 1 – Finance

The financial resources are the following:

* 1. Contributions from members.
  2. Public and private funding sources.
  3. Unconditional grants and donations, whether financial or “in kind”, shall be received without prejudice on GITP’s independence or decision-making.
  4. All resources of the GITP shall be used exclusively for its not-for-profit purposes.

Article 2 – Fiscal Year and Contractual Matters

2.1. The Board shall fix the fiscal year.

2.2. On contractual matters, the signature of the Chairperson or General Secretary or any member of the Board duly designated by the Secretariat shall bind GITP.

2.3. In case GITP ceases to exist, its assets alone shall be held liable to meet any contracts or financial obligations incurred in the running of its activities.

**Chapter Six**

(General Provisions)

Article 1 – Amendments

The present Statute may be amended by a two-third majority of GITP members.

Article 2 – Dissolution

2.1. GITP dissolves itself by a decision of the Assembly approved by four-fifth majority of its members in a meeting to be called by the Secretariat for this purpose.

2.2. In no event may the assets of the GITP be returned to its founding members or Members, nor should they use some or all the assets for their own benefit in any way.

Article 3 – Headquarters

The Headquarters of GITP is based in Geneva (Switzerland).

*Done in Geneva, 25.02.2024*