

DRAFT STATUTES FOR THE GERMANO-CAMEROONIAN COORDINATION OFFICE

English version

Preamble

- Considering that generations of Cameroonians have studied or lived in Germany, becoming specialists in many and varied domains;
- That on returning to Cameroon, they hope to put their knowledge and know-how to the development of their country;
- That in order to optimize their contribution, to better know themselves, to support each other and to make their contribution more tangible;
- Law No 90/053 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association in Cameroon

Some of these Cameroonians, meeting in a constituent assembly, decided to create an association governed by the above-mentioned law and the present statutes whose contents are shown below:

Section 1: Creation – Goals – Seat – Duration

Article 1: Creation and Name

An apolitical and non-denominational association, has been created in the Republic of Cameroon to coordinate the activities of people who have either studied or lived in Germany and wish to contribute in strengthening relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Cameroon, called The **Germano-Cameroonian Coordination Office**, for short **The Coordination Office**.

Article 2: The Goal

The Coordination has as main objectives to:

- Help former Cameroonian residents in Germany to organize themselves in solidarity;
- Bring out clearly their intrinsic values and competences;
- Work together for their own personal development and that of Cameroon;
- Maintain, consolidate and perpetuate mutually beneficial relationships between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Cameroon;
- Facilitate collaboration between various associations of former residents of Germany;
- Constitute and maintain a data bank and projects;

- Carry out any other activity likely to help achieve its set objectives;

Article 3: The Seat

The Coordination Office's seat is in Yaoundé. It can be moved to another place on the decision of an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 4: Duration

The Coordination Office has duration of 99 years renewable. However, it can be dissolved by decision of an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Section 2: Members

Article 5: Membership

All former residents in Germany could become active members of the Coordination Office in conformity with the conditions laid down in the by-laws.

Article 6: Quality of members

(1) The Coordination Office shall comprise the following members:

- Active members;
- Honorary members;
- Coordination Office partners;
- Associate members;
- Sympathizers;

(2) All members shall abide by the present statutes and by-laws of the Coordination Office.

Article 7: Active members

Active members are private individuals, associations or individuals in professional groups who subscribe to the statutes and by-laws, actively participate in Coordination Office activities and have paid their required contributions.

Article 8: Honorary members

Honorary members are private individuals, institutions or associations whose eminent contributions for the promotion of the Coordination Office's activities are recognized by the Coordination Board, on the recommendation of the Executive Secretariat.

Article 9: Coordination Office partners

These are public and private institutions or enterprises which support the Coordination Office's activities and which are committed to bringing their contributions according to the set modalities of agreement of parties with the Executive Secretariat, authorized by the Coordination Board.

Article 10: Associate Members

These are private individuals who, despite not fulfilling the conditions in Article 5, carry out activities that help the attainment of the Coordination Office's goals and respect their obligations in conformity with the by-laws.

Article 11: Sympathizers

These are private individuals who support the activities of the Coordination Office and are committed to bringing their contribution according to the set modalities of the agreement of parties with the Executive Secretariat, on authorization of the Coordination Board.

Article 12: Loss of membership

Loss of membership is through:

- Written resignation notifying the Executive Secretary;
- Death;
- Dismissal as a result of behavior contrary to the objectives pursued by the Coordination Office or otherwise capable of adversely affecting the pursuance of its objectives.

Section 3: Coordination Office Organs

Article 13: Coordination Office organs

The Coordination Office organs are:

- The General Assembly;
- The Coordination Board;
- The Board of Directors;
- The Executive Secretariat

Article 14: The General Assembly

The General Assembly, meeting either in ordinary or extraordinary session, is the supreme organ of the Coordination Office. It has all the powers, to run and control the Coordination Office, which it delegates to the other organs in conformity with the statutes. It meets once every two (2) years.

In this light it:

- Approves the policy orientations which the Coordination Office has to pursue for two (2) years;
- Confers mandate on the Coordination Board to exercise control during this period;
- Designates members of the Coordination Board;
- Approves the designation of members of the Board of Directors appointed by the Coordination Board;
- Co-opts honorary members, new members and the new partners of the Coordination Office;
- Adopts the statutes and by-laws of the Coordination Office as well as their amendments;
- Approves the medium term development and financing plan of the Coordination Office;
- Approves the activity implementation reports, financial reports and consolidated balance sheets presented by the Board of Directors;
- Confirms the dismissal of a member decided by the Coordination Board.

Article 15: The Coordination Board

The Coordination Board

The Coordination Board which meets once a year in an ordinary or extraordinary session ensures the respect of the orientations agreed upon by the General Assembly.

In this light it:

- Has veto rights on decisions taken by the Board of Directors;
- Votes members of the Board of Directors;
- Approves the statutes, by-laws and their amendments;
- Approves the designation of the Executive Secretary;
- Adopts the organization of the Executive Secretariat.

The Coordination Board is presided over by a dignitary from within its ranks. It is composed of active member representatives alone or in groups organized by professional specialties, associations, associate members, honorary members and Coordination Office partners. The term of office is four (4) years renewable. The number of members, representation and decision-taking modalities are specified in the by-laws.

Article 16: The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors ensures the application of orientations set down by the General Assembly. It has absolute administrative power over the Coordination Office.

In this light it:

- Represents the Coordination Board in the civic and legal spheres;
- Examines and approves the draft budget and the annual action programme proposed by the Executive Secretary;
- Examines and approves the Coordination Office's accounts;
- Examines proposals of amendments of statutes and by-laws to be tabled for approval by the Coordination Board;
- Appoints members of the Executive Secretariat;
- Proposes the organization of the Executive Secretariat;
- Proposes the agenda for the General Assembly meeting.

Article 17: The Executive Secretariat

The Executive Secretariat is the execution organ of the Coordination Office. It is headed by an executive secretary appointed by the Board of Directors.

In this light it:

- Has the necessary power to run the Coordination Office on a daily basis;
- Draws up the draft budget and the action programme to submit to the Board of Directors;
- Prepares all files to be presented for examination or approval by the organs of the Coordination Office for which it ensures the secretariat;
- Proposes the make up of its team;
- Must produce results.

The Executive Secretary is appointed for two (2) years renewable. The remuneration of the Executive Secretary as well as that of the other members of the Executive Secretariat is laid down by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Resources

Article 18: Ordinary resources

The ordinary resources of the Coordination Office are derived from:

- Dues and contributions of members;
- Services and benefits provided by the Coordination Office.

Article 19: Extraordinary resources

Extraordinary resources come from contributions of all other types that associations governed by law No 90/053 of 19 December 1990 on associations are authorized to collect.

Section 5: Control

Article 20: Keeping tabs

The Board of Directors ensures permanent control of the functioning and administration of the Coordination Office and reports to the Coordination Board.

Article 21: Financial and accounts control

The Coordination Board designates an auditor to ensure the financial and accounts control as well as control of the assets of the Coordination Office for a period of three (3) years renewable.

Section 6: By-laws

Article 22: The by-laws

The by-laws are approved by the Coordination Board, on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, after examination by the Board of Directors. They are drawn up in application of the statutes and have as goal to spell out the organization and functioning modalities. They are an integral part of the statutes of the Coordination Office.

Section 7: Dissolution

Article 23: Dissolution

The Coordination Office can be dissolved on the decision of a two thirds (2/3) majority of active members of the coordination Office seating in an extraordinary General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Coordination Board. The General Assembly equally decides on the devolution of the Coordination Office's assets.

Section 8: Transitory provisions

Article 24: Transitory provisions

The Coordination Board, put in place by earlier preparatory Assemblies, was charged with creating conditions for a legal and structured functioning of the Coordination Office. Its functions shall cease as soon as the various Coordination Office organs envisaged in the present statutes are constituted, after the adoption of the said statutes by the General Assembly.

Done in Yaoundé on the 21 September 2007