



# GOLD MERCURY INTERNATIONAL

Advancing Sustainable Global  
Governance through Visionary  
Leadership since 1961.

## Gold Mercury International Governance Charter & Statutes

**Gold Mercury International –“Sustainable Vision for a complex world”**

### PREAMBLE

#### **Foundational Purpose and Role**

Gold Mercury was founded in 1961 in Rome as an independent International Non Governmental Organisation with the aim of fostering peace by promoting international trade and economic cooperation.

Since 1961, Gold Mercury International has been advancing Global Governance and recognized then, as it does now, that we need to renew the principles of what constitutes ‘good decision making’ to achieve lasting global sustainability.

An inability to govern in modern times is a direct product of using last century’s systems to engage with the complexity of twenty-first century problems. Existing decision-making systems are at breaking point.

Gold Mercury International understands Global Governance to require visionary and accountable leadership, from both state and non-state actors, in the management of interdependent international relations.

We must look at the planet as a cohesive whole, understand the interconnection among all areas and address the causes, not just the symptoms, of global problems.

The world population will exceed 9.1 billion by 2050. This explosive population growth will create enormous governance, economic, political, environmental, scientific and social challenges for our planet and the human race. If we fail to set a new and cohesive destination for the whole of humanity that transcends the limited and fragmented view of the past, this new century will be wasted like the last. Let’s not let this happen.

Without a renewed and clear vision of our future, and drastic clarity of our present reality, we will not have a sustainable planet. An important task lies ahead of us: to change the perceptions we have of ourselves as citizens of the planet and of our personal roles for the future.

Without the right vision and agenda to anticipate events and guide our decisions (and





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affect the outcomes) we are likely to unravel human progress. Now more than ever, a vision of Global Citizenship must be attained to unite all peoples to work towards the common goal of global sustainability.

Gold Mercury works with key global governance stakeholders to create and promote sustainable global policies, ideas and agendas that guarantee and protect our common public goods while fostering a peaceful and sustainable development for our planet.

## Gold Mercury International Values and Principles

Gold Mercury International, its Chairman, its President & Secretary General, its International Advisory Board, its Executive Team and its Award Organizing, Award Nomination and Award Selection Committees are committed to:

- Global sustainability** and peace require an unprecedented collective and cooperative effort to secure the planet's future public goods in the long term.
- Visionary Leadership** – Real leaders should have a broad and long-term perspective on governance and human development and a sense of what is needed for such development.
- Anticipatory Governance & Strategic vision** based on universally agreed ethics are prerequisites to achieving global sustainability and solving most of the problems generated in the 20th century or before (what we call 'the unwanted historic legacies').
- Global Citizenship** has become a moral and ethical imperative that requires a new mindset based on a value system that all could adopt, understand and implement.
- Participation** - Those affected by a decision should have a voice in the decision-making process, either directly or through legitimate institutions that represent their interests.
- Rule of law** – National and International legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially and all people should be equal before the law.
- Transparency** - Processes, institutions and information should be directly accessible to those concerned with them.
- Responsiveness** - Institutions and processes should endeavour to serve all stakeholders.
- Consensus orientation** - Differing interests should be mediated to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interests of those involved.
- Equity** - All individuals should have equal opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being.
- Efficiency** - Processes and institutions should produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources and protecting vital public goods.
- Accountability** - Decision-makers in government, the private sector, and civil society organisations should be accountable to the public and to institutional stakeholders.

## Global Agenda and Advocacy

Gold Mercury promotes these principles through its advocacy activities, monitoring of global governance, policy research, strategic advisory, publishing and education, events and summits, historic Awards and international relations activities.



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## **GENERAL**

### **I / FOUNDATION - HEADQUARTERS - DURATION**

#### **Art. 1 Foundation, Name and Symbol**

1. « Gold Mercury International » or « GMI » (the organisation) has been founded in 1961 as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), corporately organized as a think tank, and politically, ideologically and religiously independent.
2. The Organisation's official symbol is the Gold Mercury Statue designed in circa 1564 by the Flemish sculptor Jean Boulogne (Gian Bologna). The same symbol is used as the effigy for its Gold Mercury Awards and is an international registered trademark of the organisation.
3. Gold Mercury's official language is English.
4. Official documents of GMI are written in English, although secondary languages can be used for specific events, publications or issues. Translation to other languages will be provided whenever possible.

#### **Art. 2 Headquarters**

The organisation's headquarters are located in London, England.

#### **Art. 3 Duration**

GMI is constituted for an unlimited duration.

### **II / PURPOSE & GOALS**

#### **Art. 4 Purpose & Goals**

1. GMI has the following goals :
  - To promote, peace, international cooperation and sustainable policies among nations and main actors in Global Governance.
  - To develop and execute an annual research programme and a global sustainability agenda that focuses on the planet's and humanity's main challenges.
  - To monitor and track these main challenges and globalisation's progress towards sustainability.



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- To advise and work with governments, corporations, academia, NGO's and civil society on global meta-trends, strategic vision and anticipatory governance towards sustainability.
- To provide practical frameworks to understand reality in order to clarify and solve key global issues.
- To promote and foster a global citizenship and identity as a key pillar to achieve global sustainability.
- To organise summits and events to promote and gather support for our ideas, policies and our work.
- To use our proprietary frameworks for strategic visioning as a tool to anticipate, discover and promote new paradigms that improve governance for sustainability.
- To manage the Gold Mercury Awards for Visionary Leadership in Global Governance and its Award Nomination, Award Organizing and Award Selection Committees.
- To facilitate knowledge transfer and provide participation in its activities to people in difficult financial situations in any country in the world, including micro-lending.
- To collaborate and partner with national and international organisations and networks which are sharing similar goals and are engaging in key activities towards achieving our social and organisational goals.
- To continue to be a member of the United Nations Civil Society Network and support the U.N. Global Compact.

## **III / ORGANISATION**

### **Art. 5      Organs of the Organisation**

The organs of GMI are the Chairman, the General Secretariat (hereafter "GS"), the Executive Team (ET), the International Advisory Board (IAB), the Award Nomination Committee, Award Organizing Committee and Award Selection Committee and the External Auditors (EA).

## **IV/ CHAIRMAN**

### **Art. 6    Mission and competences of the Chairman**

1. The Chairman in conjunction with the IAB approves the annual research agenda of the organization and the annual plan.
2. The Chairman approves annually the budget of the organization.
3. The Chairman chairs the International Advisory Board.
4. The Chairman must approve any modifications to the organizational statutes or to the Awards regulations.



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5. The Chairman and International Advisory Board Members confirm the Executive Officer (Secretary General) of the organization, every five years.

## **V / GENERAL SECRETARIAT (GS)**

### **Art. 7 Composition / Missions of the General Secretariat**

1. The GS is composed of:

- The President and Secretary General assisted by the Executive Team.
- The Executive Team composed of Chief of Staff, corporate affairs, staff members, research fellows and global advisors.

### **Art. 8 Competences and powers of the GS**

1. The General Secretariat (GS) and the International Advisory Board are the main organs of GMI.
2. The GS is assisted by an Executive Team, a team of research fellows, advisors and a global network of leading experts in different global governance categories and areas.
3. The GS prepares a draft of GMI's annual plan and presents it for approval to the IAB.
4. The GS of Gold Mercury develops and runs the research agenda, consisting of global challenges and of critical issues affecting sustainable development.

5. To achieve these objectives Gold Mercury may via its General Secretariat:

- Initiate studies, reports, analysis and monitoring of global issues or events.
- Develop and maintain international relations with Governments, International Organisations, Corporations, Agencies, Regional or local Groupings, or specific communities representing or affected by these issues.
- Propose initiatives, make recommendations, give advice and prepare policy positions.

6. The GS will use the following working tools and communication formats depending on the type of issue or action required:

- Gold Mercury Resolutions
- Gold Mercury Publications & Reports



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- Gold Mercury Policy Briefs & Recommendations
- Gold Mercury Summits & Events
- Gold Mercury Education programs
- Gold Mercury's Global Governance Monitoring System Alerts and Ratings (GLOGO)
- Gold Mercury Press Announcements and Press Conferences

7. The GS is responsible for supervising the development and distribution of these policy tools and instruments as well as to maintain proper records of these documents.

8. The GS may also add new critical issues to the GMI research agenda as these new issues arise during the course of a year.

9. The GS may work with different stakeholders or partner with other organizations or networks in the identification of issues and the development of policy positions.

10. The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of Governments, Corporations and other global governance stakeholders any matter or issue which in his opinion is affecting global sustainability or creating human suffering.

11. The Secretary General can speak of behalf of the Chairman and the IAB in international forums.

12. Other tasks and competences of the GS are all the ones that are not expressly attributed to another organ, including for instance:

- To define the means to reach the goals defined under Article 4 and 7.
- To manage GLOGO – The Global Governance Monitoring System and its associated platforms.
- To devise and implement the strategies and priorities of Gold Mercury International.
- To assist the International Advisory Board and the Secretary General in the process of electing new members of the IAB.
- To maintain proper governance and oversight of all activities.
- To approve any partnerships or working protocols with third parties.
- To ensure sound financial management and to approve the annual report from the auditors and to give them discharge.
- To lead the representation of Gold Mercury International and manage the staff and support teams of the organisation.
- To pronounce the exclusion of Executive Team members for inappropriate behaviour.
- To seek approval from the Chairman in order to modify the Statutes.



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- To promote and follow the ethical principles and goals of Gold Mercury International
- To consult and regularly inform the IAB about Gold Mercury International's activities.
- To hire salaried employees for specific task and projects depending on the needs of the organization.

## **Art. 9 Competences of the ET**

1. All executive and administrative tasks of the organisation must be done by the General Secretariat and the Executive Team, including:

- Establishing the budget and managing the finances of the organisation.
- Undertaking research activities and programmes as agreed with the GS.
- Managing the admission and exclusion of members at the IAB and the Awards Nomination, Awards Organizing and Awards Selection Committee.
- Scheduling annual priorities and plans and preparing agendas and minutes of meetings.
- Discussing the allocation of resources of the organisation and its projects.
- Convening summits, conference calls and events and preparing the subjects to discuss.
- Assuring the safeguarding of official documents and legacy of the organisation, including the Charter and Statutes, publications, reports, policy agenda instruments and historic archives.

## **VI / THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Art. 10 Composition / Mission**

1. The International Advisory Board is made of members covering diverse areas of Global Governance, coming from Royal Houses, International Organisations, Government, Diplomacy, Policy Making, Academia, NGOs, the Arts, the Media, Civil Society and Religious Groups.
2. The International Advisory Board's principle role is to advise and assist the Secretary General on research agenda, policy formation, developing future partnerships and collaborations, while promoting the values of the organization externally.
3. The IAB is a consultative body and the advice of the members of the IAB is pro-bono.
4. Gold Mercury Award Laureates are granted membership of the IAB upon approval of the existing members of the board.



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5. The existing members of the IAB are entitled to nominate a new board member for consideration.
6. Decision for approving new members is made through mutual consent between the Chairman of the IAB and the GS.
7. The members of the Advisory Board are elected for one year, renewable.
8. The condition to become a member of the International Advisory Board is to have contributed in a significant way to advancing sustainable globalisation and global governance, and have created policies or projects that improve our world.

## **Art. 11      Competences**

1. The International Advisory Board through advice and guidance brings a wide range of skills and expertise to Gold Mercury International and advises GMI on critical issues and long term priorities.
2. The members of the International Advisory Board confirm the Gold Mercury Award Winners, being part of the Selection Committees.
3. Every year, the members of the IAB are provided with a draft annual plan of GMI's activities for consultation, validation and endorsement.
4. Members of the IAB approve the research agenda of the organization annually.
5. IAB members are expected to attend GMI Awards and Summit and other events of the organization, at their convenience.
6. IAB members can be consulted on their areas of specialization for GLOGO ratings.
7. The International board members confirm joint resolutions, regulations and policy recommendations alongside with the GS.
8. The International Advisory Board's moderator is the Secretary General.
9. The members of the IAB are not responsible for all the opinions or positions expressed by GMI. Similarly GMI is not responsible for the opinions or positions of individual IAB members. Joint statements, resolutions or press releases can be drafted by both parties to be issued to the media for specific purposes.
10. The members of the IAB are expected to support Gold Mercury's International Values and Principles as set in GMI's Preamble.
11. Save as otherwise provided, the Chairman of the organisation acts as Chairman of the IAB. The GS elects an honorary member as President of the IAB alongside the Chairman, at the beginning of each year.
12. Any unauthorised expenses caused to the organisation by an IAB member will be the entire responsibility of this member.





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## **VII / THE GOLD MERCURY AWARDS GOVERNANCE**

### **Art. 12 The Awards**

1. Gold Mercury presents awards to renowned individuals who have been making change possible in one of our 8 Global Governance areas.
2. The Awards governance is based on the work of a. the Organizing, b. the Nomination and c. the Selection Committees.
3. The Organizing Committee is in charge of the management of the Awards and is Chaired by the Secretary General.
4. The Nomination Committee consists of international experts from our 8 global governance areas.
5. The Selection Committee is composed of the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and members from the IAB.
6. A separate document, entitled '*Gold Mercury Awards for Global Governance-Statutes & Regulation*' provides a detailed explanation of GMI's Awards Regulations.

## **VIII / THE AUDITORS**

### **Art. 13 The auditors**

1. Auditors are elected by the GS for one year, renewable.
2. Their task is to check and approve the organisation's accounts and to present their report to the GS.



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## **IX / FINANCING**

### **Art. 14 Resources**

1. The organisation's financial resources come from:
  - a. Income from summits and events organized by GMI and funded by partners, sponsors and ticket fees.
  - b. Income from advisory, research projects and Global Monitoring (GLOGO).
  - c. Sponsorships for our Research projects and activities.
  - d. Income from marketing of publications or other services such as Workshops and Education.
  - e. Donations for its various research projects, reports and publications, events and activities.
2. The financial year lasts from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
3. The Chairman & Secretary General have signatory power for bank documents.

## **X /MODIFICATIONS OF CORPORATE STATUTES & AWARD REGULATIONS**

### **Art. 15 Modification of the Charter and statutes or of the Award Selection and Nomination Process**

1. Any proposed modification of this Charter and statutes or of the Award Selection and Nomination Process must be approved by the Chairman.

## **XI / FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

### **Art. 16 Final provisions**

1. Any question not specifically ruled in these statutes or any dispute concerning the interpretation or execution of these statutes will be brought to the attention of the Secretary General (GS) for discussion and resolution.



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## **Art. 17      Entry into force**

1. These revised statutes have been adopted by the GS on September 7, 2011 as part of Gold Mercury's strategic review in the year of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.