

## **GCIOBA76 - Consultation Questions and Answers**

**Up to now, each region (i.e. Europe etc.) had its own model but there was a loose coupling between all the regions. This new model will be for all regions. Is that correct? If yes, what is driving the change? What have we tried to do that was not possible with the previous model?**

This new model will indeed be for all regions. The regions will however still have **some** latitude to operate some aspects autonomously as the requirements of the region dictates. The changes have been driven by our collective desire to remain as one unit responding to our collective needs. This includes attending to matters that require our attention (not just financially) to members' welfare, school projects and other relevant endeavours. We believe, we will be better equipped to address a significant number of these concerns as a cohesive unit.

**What can we not do with the current model?**

Suffice to say, it's more about doing it better in a more equitable and sustainable manner

**Constitution - does this mean we will have a written legal document for the entity? If yes, then how will the entity operate across regions with different laws? What will the relationship be with the global old boy's entity?**

Yes, we plan to have a written document that will guide our affairs, after due consideration with all stake holders. The constitution will easily operate across regions, once the body believes in it. Our Constitution is a gentleman's agreement between friends of 45 years. It is not a money making venture, simply a guide to our association so that we can observe decorum in our engagements with each other. It will also guide our processes in maintaining our administrative structure. We do not envisage a situation where we will need legal enforcement, rather, members will voluntarily abide with what the majority agrees to, in the interest of all. The limited autonomy conferred to each region guide the idiosyncrasies of each entity

**How much of these will carry the global context... e.g., does the GCIOBA Global have an existing constitution and if yes, is it going to be consulted for context?**

Yes, the GCIOBA global constitution was consulted in the drafting of our own constitution, and we also benchmarked with constitutions of groups similar to ours. Our end result is a unique, standalone constitution for GCIOBA76 that reflects who we are and our geographical spread

**Since there is a time limit to the existence of this association, what happens after?**

GCIOBA76 is a time specific gathering of like minds, unlike the main GCIOBA which gets new membership inflows as the school graduates students. The constitution addresses the natural duration of our existence. It also addresses our leadership and membership structure and is designed to be flexible enough to accommodate our dwindling numbers as the years go by

Specifically, there is a section for dissolution of the association when winter comes and there are only a handful of us left; and due to old age, health reasons, etc. it is impractical for those few to continue to interact. In the event that the last member changes realm without formal dissolution then the association will die naturally. There is a section on how the association's assets are to be distributed. The duty to distribute will fall on the executors or administrators of the last member's estate

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## **Why do we need a constitution?**

For the way we want to exist now, the way we want to relate to and engage with each other, and the benefits of group membership and association that we want to harvest now, we need to have a constitution”

## **What is a constitution?**

A body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed”

## **Will there be rules covering conduct and behaviour on the group forums**

Indeed there will. The constitution when published will contain rules governing our conduct. See Section 8. It is our hope that this will reduce conflict, ensure members understand that posts have consequences and what those consequences are, and generally make this a pleasant union of brothers.

## **If for any reason a member feels aggrieved or offended and exist the group. Will there be a penalty for voluntarily exiting? And if he so desire to be readmitted, are there steps to follow or is admission automatic. Believing that membership is lifelong, no offense can warrant expulsion?**

Membership of GCIOBA76 is a **Right** for all of us here. Participation on the GCIOBA76 whatsapp forums is a **Privilege** that right gives us, and as such must be subject to formal and informal rules of conduct. Whilst a member can be sanctioned within the whatsapp groups, **there are no powers** given to any elected official or body to expel any member from the association. Thi is enshrined in the constitution

There is no penalty for voluntary exit, but there will be a re-entry process whether your exit was voluntary or involuntary

## **Do we in any way feel that some of us might feel constrained being subjected to so much restrictions for a voluntary association**

As in all things its best if we as individuals can self-regulate without needing rules, but for anything to work effectively, there have to be boundaries and the rules establish the boundaries

## **What is our link to the main school association with respect to our constitution?**

Our engagement with the main school association is important. The Main School association has its constitution and its rules and regulation. Our constitution is also loosely based on this. It is hoped that one of the issues we will solve with this restructure is presenting ourselves to all (including to the main association) as ONE ENTITY with a concerted effort to address all matters

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### **What will I have to do if I want a group with a particular interest that is not catered for currently?**

If you think a new group might be useful, the first port of call should be the Communications Officer, who will present to the EXCO for Ratification

### **Who is the Welfare Officer?**

A welfare Officer has already been appointed and will be revealed at the Webinar

### **I will suggest that the Welfare Officer is amended to Health and Welfare Committee. All Doctors on here be members and other capable members in my view.**

We had already taken the liberty of assuming all doctors would be available as required by the programme. But for confidentiality and to keep things under control, we opted for a single **initial** point of contact. A welfare officer has been appointed. He will be the first port of call for all members who need to have an issue addressed. Where necessary, with EXCO approval, he may, as required, form a temporary ad hoc committee to help resolve issues. **Note** that the welfare officer is here to help with regard to the wellbeing of all members in all respects– Financial, health, etc.

### **How do we address issues that are not covered in the constitution but can have far reaching effect on our unity, yet not setting precedence that is difficult to sustain.**

Aside from the constitution, a set of rules and regulations have been developed. This will operate alongside the constitution to ensure we interact with ourselves with decorum, respect and tolerance

### **How do we fund this (Welfare), separate contributions from annual dues?**

Funding has been a key consideration of this effort. The proposal is to fund this fundamentally as part of our annual subscription to the association.

### **My assumption is that the association was created to build stronger unity bond, not just for financial purposes. If that is the case, perhaps, it's time to keep this whatsapp group for Association information and then create another WhatsApp group for socializing.**

The Main Forum is indeed for socializing in a broad and secular sense and we already have sub groups for

- Regional (one each for Official information for Africa, Europe and America)
- Pastor's Forum
- Awon boys Forum
- Business Forum

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### **Who are the elected officials and what is their tenure?**

The president (for all regions), general secretary (Nigeria only) and treasurer (Nigeria Only) are the only elected officials. All the other posts are by appointment of the President within the regions. Appointees to the ExCo is by collective consensus between the elected officials. Tenure of each elected office is 2 years. All appointee roles expire with the end of the president's tenure. Where a candidate is unopposed, pronouncement is usually by acclamation so long as the incumbent is willing to continue to serve. To get involved, you just need to indicate your willingness to serve with your regional president.