Statute of the UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)

Preamble

THE COUNCIL,

REAFFIRMING in the terms of its Charter that the United Nations University shall be an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

REAFFIRMING that the University shall devote its work to research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare;

CONSIDERING that the University shall function through a central programming and coordinating body and a network of research and post-graduate training centres and programmes located in the developed and developing countries;

CONSIDERING that the programmes of the institutions of the University shall include, among other subjects, economic and social change and development, the environment and the proper use of resources, basic scientific research and the application of the results of science and technology in the interests of development;

CONSIDERING that the University shall include a certain number of research and training centres to be established or incorporated in various countries by decision of the Council;

HEREBY decides to establish the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa as a research and training centre of the University, which shall carry out its work as stipulated hereunder:

Article I
LEGAL STATUS, STRUCTURE AND LOCATION

1. The Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (also to be known as INRA and hereinafter referred to as "the Institute") shall be an integral part of the United Nations University.

2. The Institute as an integral part of the University shall have the legal status necessary for the realization of its purposes and activities; it shall, in particular, have the capacity to enter into agreements, contracts or arrangements, acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property, and institute legal proceedings.

3. The Institute, its personnel, fellows and trainees, as well as persons attending the Institute on official business, shall enjoy the privileges, immunities and facilities which may be required for the proper exercise of the functions conferred on them by this Statute, or by virtue of decisions taken thereunder by the appropriate organs of the Institute. The scope of such privileges, immunities and facilities shall be determined in agreements concluded between the University and the governments who administer the territories in which the Institute or its operating unit are located.

4. The Institute shall consist of:

(a) a Board;
(b) a Director;
(c) personnel, visiting experts, research associates, fellows and trainees.

5. The Institute shall be located at the University of Ghana at Legon, Accra, and at the site of each operating unit.

Article II
PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

1. The central purpose of the Institute shall be:

(a) to undertake work in the area of natural resources within the overall University programme;
(b) to help African and other developing countries better appreciate and mobilize their natural resource endowment for the benefit of their people;
(c) to promote the development of natural resources through the generation and application of scientific knowledge and innovative technological approaches for productive work, and through the formulation of policy and planning options;
(d) to increase understanding of the socio-economic and other aspects of natural resources in the context of self-reliant development;
(e) to contribute to the strengthening of national and other institutions, and the building of endogenous research and development and consultancy capabilities in African and other developing countries with respect to their natural resource endowment;
(f) to encourage inter-disciplinary research and development work, advanced training and the dissemination of knowledge in the area of natural resources;
(g) to make available the knowledge and experience gained in its work to academic and scientific communities everywhere, particularly in the developing countries.

2. Pursuant to the foregoing, the Institute shall:

(a) undertake research and development work;
(b) provide advanced training for young scientists and technologists;
(c) disseminate knowledge and provide scientific and technological information;

(d) promote close interaction and effective participation of both natural and social scientists;
(e) pay particular attention to the participation of women in its work;
(f) organize a college of research associates designed to promote cooperation with national and other institutions, assist in mobilizing a critical mass of scientists and technologists, and help alleviate the isolation of scientific and technological communities with a view to their effective participation in the development of Africa;
(g) develop a regional network by coordinating its activities with those of relevant research and training institutions in different parts of Africa and collaborate with relevant research and training institutions in other regions, particularly in the developing countries;
(h) organize conferences, seminars, workshops and panels;
(i) award fellowships;
(j) cooperate with the other research and training centres and programmes, and activities of the University;
(k) do and perform all other acts that may be considered necessary, suitable and proper for the attainment of any or all of its purposes.

Article III
ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND AUTONOMY

The Institute shall enjoy autonomy in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of the Charter of the University. It shall also enjoy the academic freedom required for the achievement of its purposes and the conduct of its activities within the overall University programme, with particular reference to the choice of subjects and methods of research and training, the selection of persons and institutions to share in its tasks, and freedom of expression.

Article IV
BOARD

1. The Board shall be entrusted by the Council with the authority and responsibility needed for the governance of the Institute in accordance with the general principles, policies and criteria formulated by the Council to govern the activities of the University.

2. The Board shall consist of:

(a) up to eight members who shall serve in their individual capacity, including one member from Ghana, appointed by the Rector in consultation with the Chairman of the Council of the University, after consultation with two other members of the Council as the Chairman may designate for this purpose.
(b) the Rector of the University and the Director of the Institute who shall be *ex officio* members of the Board.

3. The Board shall be established on a broad geographical basis with due regard to major academic, scientific, economic, social and cultural trends in Africa and other parts of the world.

4. The Board shall reflect the Institute's interdisciplinary character and shall include persons who have experience, qualifications and recognized competence in the disciplines related to the purposes of the Institute, and promising young scholars.

5.
(a) All Board members other than the *ex officio* members shall be appointed for four-year terms, with the exception of the members of the first Board, one-third of whom shall be appointed for two-year, one-third for three-year and one-third for four-year terms respectively.
(b) A member appointed to the Board may serve continuously for not more than two consecutive four-year terms, with the exception of the members of the first Board who, irrespective of the duration of their first term, may serve continuously for a further four-year term.

6. When the office of a Board member becomes vacant during the term of the member appointed thereto because of retirement, death, incapacity or any other cause, or when the term expires, the Rector may appoint a person for the remainder of the term or for a further term in accordance with paragraph 2(a) and 7.

7. Any subsequent Board member shall be appointed by the Rector after consultation with the Board and in accordance with paragraph 2(a).

8. In exercising the authority entrusted to it by the Council, the Board shall:

(a) formulate the principles and policies which shall govern the activities and operations of the Institute; in furtherance of this, it shall seek to ensure the attainment of the highest levels of intellectual and scientific excellence;
(b) adopt the programme of work and budget of the Institute on the basis of proposals submitted to it by the Director for submission to the Council in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 8;
(c) consider reports of the Director on the activities of the Institute and on the execution of its plans of work;
(d) make such recommendations to the Council as it may deem necessary or desirable for the effective functioning of the Institute;
(e) submit to the Council, through the Rector, an annual report on the work of the Institute;
(f) establish such subsidiary bodies, as it deems necessary.

9. The Board shall meet in regular session at least once year and shall be convened by the Director. It shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman and

shall adopt rules of procedure, including procedures for convening special sessions as necessary.

10. The Board shall consider the methods of financing the Institute with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its operations, their continuity and the Institute's autonomous character within the framework of the University.

Article V
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE

1. The Director of the Institute shall be appointed by the Rector after consultations with the Board, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Council.

2. The Director shall normally serve for four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one more term of up to four years. The Rector shall determine the conditions of service of the Director, in accordance with University practices.

3. The Director shall be the chief academic and administrative officer of the Institute and shall have overall responsibility for the direction, organization, administration and programmes of the Institute, in accordance with the general policies and criteria formulated by the Board. The Director shall, *inter alia*:

(a) submit the programme of work and the budget estimates of the Institute to the Board for its consideration and adoption;
(b) direct the programme of work of the Institute and authorize expenditures provided in the budget;
(c) appoint the personnel, visiting experts, research associates, fellows and trainees of the Institute on behalf of the Rector in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 4 so as to ensure the highest intellectual and moral quality of that personnel;
(d) direct the personnel of the Institute;
(e) set up such advisory bodies as may be necessary in connection with the activities of the Institute;
(f) make arrangements with relevant national, regional and international institutions and organizations with a view to offering and receiving services related to the activities of the Institute;
(g) coordinate the programme of work of the Institute with the other activities of the University and with research and training institutions in different parts of the world, particularly in Africa;
(h) collaborate with the Rector, in particular, in order to ensure the coordination of programmes of research and training;
(i) participate in the Conference of Directors of Research and Training Centres and Programmes called periodically by the Rector to review and evaluate programmes of research being undertaken;
(j) report to the Board in accordance with the rules of procedure on the activities of the Institute and the execution of its programme of work;
(k) provide the necessary services to the Board.

Article VI
PERSONNEL, VISITING EXPERTS, RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, FELLOWS AND TRAINEES OF THE INSTITUTE

1. The personnel of the Institute shall be selected with a view to achieving its stated purposes. The basic criteria for selection shall be the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, with due regard to appropriate representation in terms of geography, social systems, cultural traditions, age and sex.

2. The personnel of the Institute shall consist of:

(a) Professional personnel;
(b) Administrative personnel;

it being understood that their assignment to each of these categories shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the University's statutes relating to personnel. Such personnel shall be solely responsible to the Director in the exercise of their functions.

3. In the performance of their duties the Director and personnel shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the University.

4. The Personnel, visiting experts, research associates, fellows and trainees of the Institute shall be appointed by the Director on behalf of the Rector in accordance with the provisions of the University Charter and procedures approved by the Council.

Article VII
OPERATING UNITS

1. The Institute may include a certain number of operating units to be established in other countries.

2. The Council may, in consultation with the Board, establish such operating units and adopt standards for their operation.

Article VIII
FINANCE AND BUDGET

1. In accordance with the provisions of the University Charter, the University may accept voluntary contributions and gifts from governments, international and national institutions and organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources, including individuals, for all purposes related to the activities of the Institute; the Director of the Institute may also accept such voluntary contributions and gifts with the approval of the Rector.

2. The income derived from investment of the moneys referred to in paragraph 1 shall be available for financing the activities of the Institute.

3. Apart from the arrangements provided for under paragraphs 1 and 2 and from any contributions that may be received by appropriation from the general funds of the University, contributions and gifts to be used directly for current activities of the Institute may be accepted.

4. Fund received for the Institute shall be kept in a special account to be established for this purpose in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations applicable to the University.

5. The funds of the Institute shall be held and administered solely for the purposes of the Institute.

6. The financial operations of the Institute shall be regulated by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations applicable to the University.

7. The Director shall prepare the budget estimates of the Institute in a manner consistent with the United Nations regulations, rules, policies and procedures applicable to the University.

8. The budget, as adopted by the Board, shall be considered and approved by the Council as part of the programme and budget of the University.

9. Funds administered by and for the Institute shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

10. The general administrative, personnel and financial services of the University may be utilized by the Institute on conditions determined by the Rector.

Article IX
PUBLICATIONS AND RIGHTS TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

1. The Institute may freely publish any results of its research activities in the fulfilment of its purposes.

2. All rights, including title, copyright and patent rights in any work or invention produced or developed by the Institute shall be vested in the University.

3. The University shall use its patent and other rights, and any financial or other benefits associated therewith, in furtherance of the purpose for which the Institute was established.

Article X
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Institute shall seek to establish cooperative relationships for the realization of its purposes and activities:

(a) with the relevant local universities, institutions and organizations in Ghana;
(b) with other relevant national, regional and international organizations and institutions.

Article XI
REVIEW

A periodic review and evaluation of the work of the Institute shall be undertaken by the Rector in consultation with the Board. The results of such review and evaluation shall be submitted by the Rector to the Council for consideration and appropriate action.

Article XII
AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Statute may be made by the Council.

2. The Rector, at the request of the Board or after consultation with it, may propose amendments.

Article XIII
DISSOLUTION

1. The Institute may be dissolved by a decision of the Council if it is determined that the purposes and activities of the Institute have been satisfactorily accomplished or that the Institute will no longer be able to function effectively.

2. In the event of such dissolution, the funds and assets remaining to its accounts shall be used as the Council shall direct except as may otherwise be provided in the terms of any contributions accepted in furtherance of the activities of the Institute.

Article XIV
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Financial and other actions to initiate the operations of the Institute may be taken by the Rector under the authority of the Council.

The Statute was adopted by the Council of the United Nations University, pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 4(b) of the Charter of the United Nations University, at its thirty-eighth session in December 1991 (UNU/C/38/L.10/A). Article V, paragraph 2 was amended at its fifty-sixth session in December 2009 (UNU/C/56/L.9/Rev.1) and further amended at its sixtieth session in November 2013 (UNU/C/60/L.19).