

Constitution of the Africa Biomedical Engineering Alliance (ABEA)

Declaration

We, the representatives of Biomedical Engineering Associations and societies across Africa, acknowledge the critical need for a unified platform to advance and harmonize the biomedical engineering profession and related disciplines, thereby improving health and quality of life on the continent.

Therefore, we agree to establish the Africa Biomedical Engineering Alliance (ABEA) as a collective voice advocating for policies, regulations, and resources that will drive the growth of biomedical engineering.

ABEA aims to harmonize practices, influence healthcare reforms, secure government support, and enhance funding for biomedical engineering initiatives, ensuring impactful contributions to Africa's healthcare landscape.

Article I: Name and Status

1. The organization shall be known as the Africa Biomedical Engineering Alliance (ABEA).
2. ABEA shall be a non-profit, non-governmental, and professional organization.
3. ABEA shall operate per the laws governing non-profit organizations and professional alliances in Africa.

Article II: Vision, Mission, and Objectives

Vision

To be the leading collaborative platform for advancing the biomedical engineering profession and healthcare technologies across Africa

Mission

To unite and empower biomedical engineering professionals and their associations across Africa by fostering innovation, capacity building, mentorship, educational initiatives, and policy advocacy, driving the advancement of healthcare technologies to address the unique healthcare challenges faced by African Countries.

Objectives

1. Promote collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange among biomedical engineering professionals across Africa.
2. Advocate for policies supporting biomedical engineering education, practice, and research.
3. Facilitate capacity building and professional development.
4. Enhance the accessibility and sustainability of healthcare technologies.

5. Establish partnerships with regional and international organizations.
6. Championing Gender and Diversity Inclusion

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Membership Categories

1. **Full Members:** National biomedical engineering associations officially recognized by their respective countries in Africa.
2. **Affiliate Members:** Regional or specialized biomedical engineering organizations operating in Africa.
3. **Associate Members:** Organizations or individuals with a demonstrated commitment to biomedical engineering but not qualifying for full or affiliate membership.
4. **Honorary Members:** Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to biomedical engineering in Africa, as determined by the General Assembly.

Section 2: Admission and Membership Dues

1. Membership applications shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board.
2. Membership dues shall be set by the General Assembly and reviewed periodically.

Section 3: Right and Obligation of Member Associations

- To vote and to speak as part of the Africa Biomedical Engineering Alliance
- Votes will be allocated according to a tiered progressive voting system.
- To nominate candidates for ABEA elections and committees as requested by the Board.
- To nominate candidates for ABEA awards and scholarships as requested by the Board.
- To send to the executive director the names and addresses of all their officers immediately after their election or appointment.
- To send to the ABEA Executive Director a copy of its Constitution and Regulations in the legal language of the country, details of all amendments thereto; a summary of the main principles and topics of all the current national biomedical engineering practice, legislation or other legal acts referring to biomedical engineering in the country within six months of their adoption.
- To notify the ABEA executive director on the number of its biomedical engineering association members each year and forward to ABEA its annual dues based on that membership.
- To pay its full dues as outlined in this constitution
- To propose amendments to the ABEA constitution.

Article IV: Governance

Members of the governing bodies, including the committees, executive and advisory boards, must be Biomedical Engineering professionals and must remain members in good standing in a Biomedical Engineering member association.

Section 1: Governing Bodies

1. **General Assembly:** The supreme decision-making body comprising representatives from all member associations.
2. **Executive Board:** Responsible for the day-to-day operations and implementation of decisions made by the General Assembly.
3. **Committees:** Specialized committees to address specific areas, such as education, research, policy advocacy, and partnerships.

Section 2: General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall meet annually and may hold extraordinary sessions as needed.
2. Responsibilities include:
 - Electing the Executive Board.
 - Approving the strategic plan, budget, and policies.
 - Amending the constitution.

Section 3: Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary-General
 - Treasurer
 - Executive Member or Committee Member
 - Regional Representatives (North, East, West, Central, and Southern Africa)
3. Term limits for board members shall be five years, renewable once. The board members who have served their five-year two-term limits are eligible for re-election as the president.

The outgoing president automatically transitions to an advisory board member position.

Section 4: Committees

1. Standing committees include:
 - Education and Capacity Building Committee
 - Research and Development Committee
 - Policy and Advocacy Committee
 - Membership and Outreach Committee

2. Ad hoc committees may be established as needed.

Article V: Secretariat

1. A permanent Secretariat shall be established to manage the Alliance's daily operations.
2. The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director, appointed by the Executive Board.
3. The Secretariat shall maintain the Alliance's records and facilitate communication among members.

Article VI: Finances

Section 1: Sources of Funding

1. Membership dues.
2. Grants and donations.
3. Revenue from programs and services.

Section 2: Budget and Accountability

1. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget, to be approved by the General Assembly.
2. Financial statements shall be audited annually by an independent auditor.

Article VII: Meetings

1. The General Assembly shall convene at least once a year, either in person or virtually.
2. The Executive and Advisory Board shall meet quarterly to oversee operations.
3. Committee meetings shall be held as necessary.
4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the decision of the President, or upon the written request of at least one-third of the members of the Board of Directors.
5. Members of the executive board who are absent from three consecutive Board meetings during a term of office shall no longer be considered members of the Board of Directors and shall be advised in writing.
6. Businesses that require immediate action may be conducted by mail or any means of telecommunication.

Article VIII: Ethics and Professional Standards

1. ABEA shall develop and enforce a Code of Ethics for biomedical engineering professionals in Africa.
2. Member associations are expected to uphold these ethical standards and promote professionalism.

Article IX: Amendments

1. Amendment be proposed by at least one full member and supported by a full member before it goes for a Vote.
2. Amendments require a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

Article X: Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to non-profit organizations with similar objectives, as decided by the General Assembly.

Article XI: Adoption

This constitution shall take effect upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the co-founding members of the Alliance.

Adopted onMarch.....2025 by the Co-Founding Members of the Africa Biomedical Engineering Alliance.

Names

Signatures