

**THE STATUTE FOR THE WORLD E-GOVERNMENTS
ORGANIZATION OF CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
Adopted by Inaugural General Assembly, 7 September 2010, Seoul Korea

Preamble

The cities and local governments attending the Inaugural General Assembly of the World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (hereinafter referred to as “the Organization”),

Recognizing the necessity to lay a foundation for a sustainable development model by integrating information technology into public administration,

Recalling the Seoul e-Government Declaration adopted on the 8th day of July, 2008 at the World e-Government Mayors Forum, whose plans of action embody the consent to form a body for global e-Governments that aims to share e-government practices and strengthen the solidarity, exchanges, and cooperation among cities,

Accepting what was agreed on the 29th day of September, 2009 at the World Cities CIO Forum, a preliminary meeting for establishing the World e-Governments Organization,

Wishing to preserve the quality of life of citizens as well as support sustainable city development through the shared experiences in e-government practices and by making contributions to the international city community,

Have agreed as follows:

**PART I.
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1
Purpose**

This Statute aims to stipulate the structure and general operation of the Organization established to promote sustainable city development by enhancing exchanges and cooperation on e-governments, to improve administrative efficiency and transparency by strengthening digital capabilities, to advance online public services for citizens and increase civil involvement, to bridge the digital divide, and to create a common ground for direct cooperation and solidarity among cities.

Article 2
Legal Scope of the Statute

Nothing in this Statute may be applied and interpreted as affecting in any way the legal provisions of any member city.

Article 3
Use of Terms

For the purpose of this Statute:

- (a) "e-governments" refers to cities and local governments that make use of information technology to enhance the access to and the delivery of government services for citizens;
- (b) "Cities and local governments (hereinafter referred to as "cities")" refers to the local authority which administers public affairs relating to the lives and well-being of citizens within the territory of its jurisdiction; and
- (c) "Mayor" refers to a head of the executive authority of cities regardless of differences in ways of using the title.

Article 4
Projects of the Organization

In accordance with its goal of improving the quality of life of citizens stipulated in article 1, the Organization shall conduct the projects to:

- (a) Share and disseminate best e-government practices between and among cities;
- (b) Conduct research to bridge the digital-divide among citizens and cities;
- (c) Promote the use of information technology to innovate the administrative process, improve online public service, and enhance administrative transparency;
- (d) Exchange officials between and among cities and create business models utilizing information technology through public-private partnerships;
- (e) Analyze and implement good practices in e-governments by conducting agreements with public government organizations; and
- (f) Conduct other functions as deemed necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the intentions and purposes of the Organization.

PART II.
MEMBERSHIP

Article 5
Membership Categories

The membership categories of the Organization are as follows:

- (a) Full member refers to any city which attended the Inaugural General Assembly or

whose membership application was approved by the General Assembly of the Organization.

- (b) Associate member refers to any city which submitted the membership application but whose membership has not yet been approved by the meeting of the General Assembly where the decision will be made.

Article 6 Rights of Members

1. Full members shall have the right to take part in discussion, vote, approve, decide on, and confirm in the General Assembly on matters of, including but not limited to, the election of the president city and the agenda concerning the Statute, projects, and annual membership fees.
2. Associate members may attend regular sessions of the General Assembly and present their opinions on matters of, including but not limited to, the Statute, projects and annual membership fees.

Article 7 Membership Accession and Withdrawal

1. Any city wishing to join the Organization shall submit a membership application form to the Secretariat and has to receive approval from the General Assembly.
2. Any member may withdraw from the Organization by submitting a written notice of withdrawal to the Secretariat. Withdrawal of membership shall take effect upon the date the President announces the city's withdrawal at the earliest meeting of the General Assembly that will be convened after the submission of withdrawal.
3. The General Assembly may suspend the participation of any member in its sessions and limit the member's right to vote and access to the benefits of the Organization if the member's membership fees remain in arrears without reasonable cause and explanation or if the member fails to attend the regular sessions of the General Assembly without reasonable cause and explanation.

Article 8 Membership Fees

1. Full members of the Organization shall pay the annual membership fee as prescribed in Annex 1.
2. With the exception of the particular condition prescribed in Article 19, Members shall begin to pay annual membership fees starting from the year they are admitted to the Organization.

Article 9 Refund of Membership Fees and Other Expenses

Membership fees and other expenses paid by a member shall not be refunded in the case of

withdrawal from or suspension of membership.

PART III.
ORGANS

Article 10
General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall be the top-level decision-making body of the Organization and have the power to decide on, approve, and confirm the following matters:

- (a) Approval of new membership;
- (b) Amendments to the Statute;
- (c) Financial support for projects and programmes;
- (d) Consultation and decision on cooperative projects among cities;
- (e) Election of the president city and the Executive Committee members; and
- (f) Any other matters related to the structure and operation of the Organization.

2. A regular session of the General Assembly shall meet every two years in the city decided on at the General Assembly.

3. The date of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be determined by the Executive Committee in full consideration of the preferred dates of the host city. The Secretariat of the Organization shall announce the date of the General Assembly to all members at least one year prior to the meeting date.

4. If a city designated to host the regular session of the General Assembly is affected by an event of *force majeure* and is unable to host the meeting, an alternative date and venue of the General Assembly shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

5. The President may convene a special session of the General Assembly with the unanimous approval of the members of the Executive Committee. The special session shall be held in the president city.

Article 11
President and Vice Presidents

1. The Organization shall have one president city and vice president cities.

2. The vice president cities shall consist of an executive vice president city and not less than five (5) vice president cities.

3. The president city shall be elected at the General Assembly, and the city receiving the largest number of votes shall become the president city. In the case of a tie vote between two (2) or more candidates, there shall be a runoff voting and the candidate that receives the largest number of votes shall become the president city.

4. The executive vice president city and vice president cities shall be appointed by the president city from among cities nominated by the Executive Committee. The appointment of the executive vice president city and vice president cities will be made to ensure equitable geographical distribution as much as possible.
5. Any city wishing to be elected as President shall notify the Secretariat in writing of its candidacy two (2) months prior to the General Assembly where the election will be held, and the Secretariat shall announce the candidacy to all members immediately after receiving the notification.
6. The elected president city and the appointed vice president cities shall serve a term of two (2) years and may be re-elected or re-appointed, respectively.
7. The mayors of the elected president city and appointed vice president cities shall become the President and Vice Presidents of the Organization, respectively.
8. The President shall supervise and represent the Organization and shall chair the meetings. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President. In cases when the President is absent from meetings or other scheduled events due to illness or any other reason, the functions and duties of the President shall be carried out by the Executive Vice President.
9. In the event that the mayors of the president or vice president cities cease to hold their office as the head of their local governments before the term of the presidency of the Organization expires, their successors to office shall serve the remaining term of the President or Vice Presidents of the Organization. Acting mayors of the president and vice president cities of the Organization may succeed as President or Vice Presidents of the Organization until new mayors begin their terms of office.
10. If a city resigns from the position of the President of the Organization, the Executive Vice President shall serve the remaining term of the President, and the city nominated at the earliest meeting of the Executive Committee to be convened after the resignation of President shall succeed as Executive Vice President of the Organization.
11. If a city resigns from the position of the Executive Vice President, the President shall appoint a replacement among the vice president cities.
12. If a city resigns from the position of Vice President, the President shall appoint a replacement among members of the Executive Committee.

Article 12

Executive Committee

1. The Organization shall have the Executive Committee comprising fifteen (15) or less cities including the president city and vice president cities. The Executive Committee provides support for the projects and assists in the operation of the Organization.
2. The Executive Committee may hold regular meetings and special meetings. Regular meetings shall be held every year.

3. Any city may join the Executive Committee by notifying the Secretariat in writing of its candidacy. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly.
4. Any member of the Executive Committee may convene a special meeting of the Executive Committee with the consent of more than half of its members. The special session of the Executive Committee shall be held at the city that requested the convening of the meeting.
5. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve a term of two (2) years and may serve additional terms.
6. The Secretary General of the Secretariat may attend any meetings of the Executive Committee and give advice but may not vote.
7. If a city resigns from the membership of the Executive Committee, another city nominated at the next Executive Committee meeting as a replacement shall become the new Executive Committee member.

Article 13 Secretariat

1. The Secretariat of the Organization shall perform the functions and duties assigned to it by the General Assembly and by the Executive Committee, submit to the General Assembly at each regular session an annual report on the activities of the Organization and its financial matters, and provide other administrative services to the members of the Organization.
2. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the President of the Organization.
3. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General shall serve a term of two (2) years and may be reappointed.
4. In the event that the office of Secretary General becomes vacant, the Assistant Secretary General shall assume the duties of the Secretary General until a new Secretary General is appointed.
5. The Secretariat shall be established in Seoul city and the Organization may decide to set up regional offices at different locations.
6. The Executive Committee shall approve the establishment of regional offices with the consent of more than half of the members present at the meeting. When the Executive Committee is not in session, it may approve the establishment of regional offices by distance voting in written form. In this case, approval requires the consent of more than two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee.
7. The city where the regional office is located shall appoint the secretary general of the regional office.

PART IV.
FINANACE

Article 14
Revenue

1. The revenue of the Organization shall consist of:
 - a) Annual membership fees paid by full members;
 - b) Voluntary donations from members; and
 - c) Any other sources of revenue approved by the Executive Committee.

Article 15
Expenditure

1. The Organization may spend the revenue for the following expenses:
 - (a) Operational Expense
 - (i) The Expenses for convening the meetings specified in paragraph 4 and 5 of Article 10 may be covered by the revenue of the Organization within the limit of less than 50% of the total costs with the approval of the General Assembly concerned.
 - (ii) All expenses for running the Secretariat, including the expenses for hiring the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, shall be borne by the revenue of the Organization. However, the president city of the Organization elected at the Inaugural General Assembly is responsible for all expenses for operating the Secretariat until the year 2012. In the case that member cities send their staff to the Secretariat, the sending cities bear the salaries and all living costs of their staff to the Secretariat.
 - (iii) Other expenses approved by the Executive Committee for the effective management of the Organization may be paid by the revenue of the Organization.
 - (b) Project Expenses
 - (i) Expenses for conducting joint projects between and among cities shall be shared among cities participating in the project concerned. Expenses for joint projects between and among cities approved by the General Assembly attended by more than half of the total members may be paid in part from the revenue of the Organization with the consent of more than half of the members present at the session in consideration of the purpose and envisaged benefits of the project.
 - (ii) With the approval from the Executive Committee, the Organization may use its revenue for the implementation of programmes aimed at promoting common interests of the member cities including but not limited to:
 - Awarding of World e-Governments Prizes

- Establishing e-Government Training Programmes
 - Organizing conferences and seminars held separately from the General Assembly
- (iii) The president city of the Organization elected at the Inaugural General Assembly is responsible for paying the expenses for certain projects and programmes to be implemented for the purpose of promoting activities of the Organization during the period between the Inaugural General Assembly and the second session of the General Assembly with the approval of the Executive Committee.
2. The Organization shall not pay for expenses incurred by the following:
- (a) Expenses for the General Assembly
Expenses required to convene the sessions of the General Assembly other than specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 10, shall be borne by the host city.
 - (b) Expenses for the Executive Committee
The expenses for convening regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be borne by the host city.
 - (c) Expenses for the Regional Offices
Expenses required for setting up and operating the regional offices, including the salaries of the Secretary Generals of regional offices, shall be borne by the cities where the regional offices are located.

PART V. GENERAL RULES

Article 16 Quorum

1. Unless otherwise specified herein, each motion at the General Assembly shall be considered adopted with the attendance of more than one third of the total members of the Organization and with the concurrence of one half or more of the members present. The same rule applies to the decision making at the Executive Committee.
2. Each full member shall have one vote for each motion. In the case of a tie vote, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Article 17 Amendments

1. Any full member may initiate a proposal to amend provisions in the Statute.
2. Amendment proposal shall be submitted to the Secretariat no later than six (6) months prior to the date of the General Assembly where the amendment proposal will be discussed. The Secretary General shall circulate the proposal in written form to all members three (3)

months before the date of the General Assembly where the amendment will be proposed.

Article 18

Mandate of the President

Decisions relating to management and implementation of projects and programmes of the Organization not stipulated in the Statute shall be taken up by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee.

PART VI.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 19

Membership Fee Exemption

The cities attending the Inaugural General Assembly shall be exempted from paying membership fees until the second regular session of the General Assembly.

Article 20

Technology-assisted Attendance in Meetings

If a member city attends the General Assembly or Executive Committee meeting not in person but digitally through means such as video conference technologies, the city shall be regarded as present at the meeting and shall exercise the right to participate in the discussion and vote.

Article 21

Official Language

The official language of the Organization is English without restrictions on the use of other languages if translation service into English is provided.

Article 22

Entry into Force

This Statute shall come into force upon the approval from members of the Organization participating in the Inaugural General Assembly held on the 7th day of September, 2010 in Seoul.

※ Annex1

(in USD)

Population (‘000)	0-1,999	2,000-3,999	4,000-7,999	8,000-11,999	12,000-
GDP per capita (USD)					
0-1,999	1,000				
2,000-5,999	2,000	3,000	4,500	6,500	8,000
6,000-9,999	5,000	6,000	7,500	9,000	10,000
10,000- 14,999	6,000	7,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
15,000-	10,000				

Note: The International Financial Statistics 2009 published by International Monetary Fund shall be applied in calculating the GDP per capita in the table above.