

New TAI membership Rules

(Membership Rules approved by the TAI Core Team and Network)

1. **Date of operation and name of rules:** These rules will come into force on May 01, 2014 and shall be known as the “TAI Membership Rules 2014”. Organizations which are members of TAI immediately preceding this date under membership rules previously in force shall be deemed to be members under these rules.
2. **Who can be TAI members:** Membership in the TAI network is open to organizations and individuals championing promoting access to information, public participation and/or access to justice in environmental matters.
3. **Privileges of TAI membership:** TAI members are entitled to vote, participate in all of the activities and decisions of the TAI network and be elected, if eligible, to the Core Team in accordance with the “Membership of the Core Team Rules 2011”. TAI members shall have the following privileges, among others:
 - a. the right to display the TAI logo in their offices, stationary, websites and other media in keeping with the TAI branding rules;
 - b. The right to use and interact on the TAI partner Google groups or other list serve;
 - c. The right to post blogs on the TAI website
 - d. The right to attend the Global Gathering and other TAI meetings as appropriate; provided however, that the TAI network is not obliged to provide funding for such participation;
 - e. The right to vote on network-wide decisions and the right to vote at elections of Core Team members in keeping with the Core Team Membership rules in force;
 - f. The opportunity to be recommended for international opportunities and conferences by the TAI secretariat;
 - g. The right to fully participate in TAI Commissions or working groups or regional TAI groupings etc; and
 - h. The right to use TAI tools and to help develop and adapt TAI tools.
4. **Nomination for membership:** Organizational and individual membership is obtained by being nominated to the network by an existing TAI organizational or individual member.
5. **Who nominates new members:** Any existing organization or individual member can nominate a new member to the network. The nomination must contain the name, contact details, country and background of the organization or individual. In particular, the nomination must provide

examples of recent access related work done by the organization or individual and flag any potential conflicts of interest.

6. **Vetting of new member nominees:** The nomination must be posted to TAI_partners@googlegroups.com and will remain on the list for two weeks. During the two weeks, any existing TAI member may express concerns or objections to the admission of the nominee to TAI membership to the TAI secretariat. If no objections are received, the secretariat will declare the member duly admitted on expiry of the above-mentioned two week period and will send an introductory welcome message to the nominee.
7. **Objections to membership:** If objections are duly received within the two week period provided, the secretariat will attempt to mediate between the nominator and the objector and come to a decision. If an agreement to admit the member cannot be reached within two weeks of the end of the two week period, the Core Team will decide on the reasonableness of the objection. The Core Team will decide whether to reject the nomination or admit the nominee to membership. The Core team decision shall be final. If a nomination is rejected, a fresh nomination may be made after the lapse of at least one year from the date of the rejection, provided the basis of the original objection no longer exists or has changed substantially.
8. **New Country Chapters:** If a TAI Coalition does not exist in a country, a new chapter may be created or recognized by the Core Team member for that region. To create a new chapter, the TAI Core Team member will, where possible, scope potential TAI chapter organizations in that country and select a TAI lead organization. Where a civil society organization or organizations in such a country wish to establish a TAI chapter, they shall contact the Core Team member for the region who will do due diligence on the suitability and capacity of the organization(s) to establish and support a country chapter. The TAI Core Team member will notify the TAI network of the proposed establishment of the new chapter and provide details on TAI_partners@googlegroup.com of the selected organization that will be the lead TAI partner. If there are objections, the procedure for resolving the objection as set out in clause 7 above will apply, *mutatis mutandis*. If there are no objections after a lapse of two weeks, the TAI Core Team member will enter into a TAI Memorandum of Understanding with the selected organization and establish a TAI country chapter for that country. On the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the TAI lead partner will be deemed to have been duly admitted as a member of TAI. New organizations and individuals of that country chapter may then be nominated and admitted under these rules.
9. **Individual Membership – Association with country and international chapter:** Individual members are admitted as stated in clause 5 of the Membership Rules 2014. An individual member, upon admission, must opt to be associated with a TAI country chapter or international chapter. Individual members may opt to be associated with a country chapter provided they reside in that country. Individual members who reside in a country where a TAI chapter has not

been established shall be associated with the international chapter. If and when a new TAI country chapter is established for such a country where an individual member resides, such individual member may opt to change the association from the international chapter to the newly established TAI country chapter. Individual members who opt to be associated with a chapter may participate in chapter decisions and activities in accordance with chapter rules of TAI. Individual members may change their association option in a leap year in response to the annual notice to members referred to in clause 12 of these rules sent in December of that leap year.

10. **Responsibilities and Core Team Members & Role of the Secretariat:** The responsibilities and roles of the Core Team and Secretariat are set out in the TAI Governance Matrix and the rules for the election of the Core Team are contained in the Membership of the Core Team Rules 2011 as amended from time to time. These documents are available on the TAI Website and on request from the Secretariat.
11. **Resignation and removal:** A TAI member may terminate membership by resignation sent to TAI_partners@googlegroups.com. A TAI member may be removed from membership on a finding of acts inimical to the interests of TAI by the Core Team and on vote to remove adopted by the TAI network by majority vote.
12. **Inactive members:** Every TAI individual and organizational member is obliged to (a) respond to an email that will be sent out annually by the secretariat in December asking TAI members to confirm that they wish to continue as members and to provide their current email address and name on or before a stated date at least two weeks from the date of the email and (b) post a message or respond to one on TAI_partners@googlegroups.com once at least each year. A reminder will be sent by the secretariat to members. Members failing to respond to the emails mentioned in (a) on or before the stated deadline, on that list and not complying with (b) above will be named on a list to be posted by the secretariat to TAI_partners@googlegroups.com and organizations and individuals on that list will be deemed to have ceased to be TAI members from the publication of the said list.
13. **Interpretation:** Any question as to the interpretation of these rules shall be determined by the TAI Core Team whose decision shall be final.
14. **Amendments:** These rules may be amended by the Core Team and such amendments shall come into force on being ratified by the TAI network by majority vote.