

ANNEX II



Gas Exporting Countries Forum

Constitutive Act of the Gas Research Institute

September 2019

Article 1 : Definitions	4
Article 2 : Establishment	4
Article 3 : Objectives	5
Article 4 : Missions of the GRI.....	5
Article 5 : Membership	6
Article 6 : Headquarters	6
Article 7 : Official Language	6
Article 8 : Structure	6
Article 9 : The Direction	6
Article 10 : Duties of the Director	7
Article 11 : The Scientific Committee	7
Article 12 : Committees.....	7
Article 13 : Fellowship.....	7
Article 14 : Budget	8
Article 15 : Staff of the GRI	8
Article 16 : Relationship with other organizations	8
Article 17 : Intellectual Property Rights	8
Article 18 : Amendments.....	8

Preamble

Considering:

- Article 3 of the Statutes of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) defining the objectives of the forum that include the exchange of experience, views, information, and coordination in gas technologies;
- The Tehran Declaration of the Third Gas Summit of the Heads of State and Government, held on 23rd November 2015, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, affirming the determination to enhance and strengthen cooperation, coordination and exchange of views among Member Countries through the creation of a GECF Gas Research Institute (GRI), subject to satisfactory feasibility study result, recalling that the location of the GRI shall be in Algeria, as well as cooperation in the fields of technology, in order to promote efficiency, innovation, technology transfer and international best practices;
- The Resolution of the 19th Ministerial Meeting, held on 4 October 2017, Moscow, Russia, to establish the Gas Research Institute of the GECF in Algeria;
- The Santa Cruz de la Sierra Declaration of the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on 24 November, 2017, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in which the Member Countries resolved their common determination to strengthen and improve the analysis, technology transfer, training, research and development of the gas industry, through cooperation and coordination among GECF Member Countries, in particular through the Gas Research Institute in Algeria;
- The Decision of the 30th Executive Board meeting, 5-6 March 2018, Doha, Qatar, to create a Scientific Committee for the Gas Research Institute;

The Member Countries of the GECF approved this Constitutive Act of the Gas Research Institute.

Article 1 : Definitions

When used in this Constitutive Act,

"Director" refers to the Director of the GRI;

"Executive Board" means the Executive Board of the GECF, as defined in the Statute of the GECF;

"GECF" means the Gas Exporting Countries Forum;

"Governing bodies" means the governing bodies of the GECF as defined in its Statutes;

"GRI" means the Gas Research Institute of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum;

"Headquarters" means the headquarters of the GRI located in Algeria;

"Host Country" means The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;

"Host Government Agreement" means the Agreement that will be concluded between the Host Country and the GECF related to the GRI;

"GECF Countries" means the Member Countries and Observer Members of the GECF;

"Member" means a state which is a voting member of the GECF;

"Observer Member" means a state which is a non-voting member of the GECF;

"Scientific Committee Member" either permanent or alternate Member, officially designated as representative of a GECF Country to the Scientific Committee;

"Secretary General" means the Secretary General of the GECF.

Article 2 : Establishment

The Gas Research Institute of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, hereinafter referred to as GRI, is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of this Constitutive Act.

The GRI shall operate within the general framework of the GECF, in accordance with this Constitutive Act and with directions of the Executive Board and the Secretary General of GECF.

The GRI enjoys legal capacity, as may be necessary for the fulfillment of its missions.

The GRI is entitled to:

- enter into contracts;
- acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property under the laws and regulations of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- institute legal proceedings.

Article 3 : Objectives

The objectives of the GRI are:

- i) to provide a framework for scientific and technological co-operation among GECF Countries, through information exchange, innovation, technology transfer, sharing of best practices and training;
- ii) to promote technology utilization and technological development along the gas value chain with a view to expand the gas resource base, improve efficiency, ensure an efficient and optimal exploitation and management of natural gas resources, in order to improve the GECF Countries competitiveness in the global gas market;
- iii) to conduct a program of research on natural gas related technologies;
- iv) to provide training in technology to GECF countries.

Article 4 : Missions of the GRI

The Mission of the GRI is to fulfill the vision for the GRI to be a world-class research institute that unlocks the full potential of gas through technology collaboration, and to support GECF to collaborate in technology, to materially improve the position of gas as a cost-competitive and clean fuel for the benefit of GECF Countries.

To this end, the GRI shall:

- Strengthen, enhance and expand scientific and technological cooperation among GECF Countries;
- Promote the exchange of scientific and technological information, transfer of knowledge and best practices;
- Identify and propose initiatives to develop synergies, partnerships and technological collaborations among GECF Countries;
- Ensure technological watch, anticipate technological developments in the gas industry and assess the value of new technologies;
- Propose and carry out research programs related to natural gas technologies;
- Facilitate networking and cooperation between gas research centers of GECF Countries and similar existing research institutions;
- Collaborate with technology providers to develop innovative solutions;
- Design and provide training programs for experts from GECF Countries;
- Organize scientific or technological seminars and workshops on topics of interest for GECF Countries;
- Contribute to the development of IT platforms to support GRI missions.

Article 5 : Membership

The members of the GRI are the GECF Countries.

Article 6 : Headquarters

The GRI headquarters is located in Algeria.

The GECF shall conclude a Host Government Agreement with the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Article 7 : Official Language

English shall be the official language of the GRI.

Article 8 : Structure

The GRI shall have the following organs:

- I. The Direction;
- II. The Scientific Committee.

Article 9 : The Direction

- The Direction of the GRI shall consist of the Director and such staff as may be required to carry out its missions.
- The Executive Board shall appoint the Director by consensus for a term of three years, which may be renewed once for the same period of time.
- The appointment of the Director shall take place upon nomination of candidates by GECF Countries.
- Should, in any case, a decision by consensus to appoint the Director not be obtained, the Director is, in that case, appointed on an alphabetical rotation basis among GECF Countries, for a term of two years, without prejudice to the required qualifications.
- The Director shall be the legally authorized representative of the GRI.
- The Director shall be the chief officer of the GRI, and in that capacity shall have the authority to direct the affairs of the GRI, in accordance with this Constitutive Act and with directions of the Governing Bodies of the GECF.
- The Director of the GRI shall report and be accountable functionally to the Executive Board and administratively to the Secretary General.
- The Director shall be a national of a GECF Country.
- The Director shall reside where the Headquarters of the GRI is located.
- The functions of the staff of the GRI shall be carried out on his behalf and under his authority and direction.

Article 10 : Duties of the Director

The Director of the GRI shall:

- Submit the GRI program of work and budget, through the Secretary General, to the Executive Board;
- Ensure that the GRI program of work and budget are complied with;
- Submit to the Executive Board, through the Secretary General, annual and ad hoc reports on the activities of the GRI;
- Undertake other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Executive Board or requested by the Secretary General;
- Prepare, in coordination with the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, the meetings of the Scientific Committee;
- Report to the Executive Board on the activities of the Scientific Committee.

Article 11 : The Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee shall:

- act as a neutral and independent counsel to the GRI;
- provide a framework for effective interaction and collaboration among GECF Countries on science and technology, as well as capacity building;
- assist the GRI to be a world-class institute that unlocks the full potential of gas.

GECF Countries shall appoint a permanent and an alternate representative to the Scientific Committee.

GECF Countries must be represented at all meetings of the Scientific Committee. However, quorum of simple majority of the Members is required for a meeting.

Meetings of the Scientific Committee should be held at the GRI headquarters, but may also be held in another location by decision of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee shall report to the Executive Board, through the Director of the GRI.

The Scientific Committee shall define its rules and procedures to be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Article 12 : Committees

The Director may create, in coordination with the Secretary General, ad-hoc committees for specific tasks, appoint the Chair of such committee, and mandate such committee with such powers and responsibilities as may be deemed advisable.

Article 13 : Fellowship

The Director may designate a limited number of well-qualified persons to serve as senior fellows of the GRI. Senior fellows shall be permitted to pursue their research at the GRI and

shall be expected to provide advice and assistance in matters related to the program of work of the GRI.

The Director may also designate junior fellows as part of the training program of the GRI. Junior fellows shall be expected to provide assistance in matters concerning the work program of the GRI.

Article 14 : Budget

The budget of the GRI is established each calendar year. The budget year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year.

The Executive Board approves the budget of the GRI, within the budget of the GECF.

Article 15 : Staff of the GRI

The staff of the GRI falls into two main categories: internationally recruited staff and locally recruited staff.

The appointment of international civil servants by the GRI must be subject to prior notification to the Algerian Competent Authorities.

The staff shall include such qualified scientific and technical and other personnel as may be required to meet the objectives and fulfil the missions of the GRI.

The GRI shall establish its Staff Regulations in accordance with the GECF Staff Regulations.

Article 16 : Relationship with other organizations

The GRI, with the approval of the Executive Board, may enter into agreements with other research institutes.

Article 17 : Intellectual Property Rights

The GRI, in coordination with the Secretary General, shall develop rules of intellectual property rights, to be submitted to the Executive Board for their adoption.

Article 18 : Amendments

Amendments to this Constitutive Act may be proposed by any GECF Country. Such proposed amendments shall be considered by the Executive Board, which, if it so decides, shall recommend their adoption to the Ministerial Meeting.