



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
FOUNDER ACHARYA HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

AFRICAN RGB

(Regional Governing Body)

June 2024

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1. Proposal - The African RGB

Whereas,

The leaders of ISKCON Africa (Southern Africa, East Africa & West Africa) have recognized the need to establish a Regional Governing Body (RGB) for the purposes of:

1. Increasing coordination of the overall preaching strategy in the African region, including:
 - Book distribution
 - Coordination of visiting devotees and preachers in the region
 - Coordination of training and development of preachers and leaders (in person and online)
2. Increasing the coordination of the implementation of the ISKCON Governing Body Commission (GBC) policies, guidelines, and resolutions applicable for Africa.
3. Being the prime contact with the GBC and the GBC Executive Committee (EC).
4. Making recommendations to the GBC Body, where appropriate, for GBC legislation.
5. Making recommendations to any GBC Zonal Secretary (GBC member)

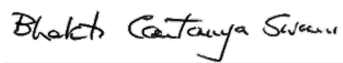
or other ISKCON official functioning within Africa on matters concerning the affairs of ISKCON in this region.

6. Convening Committees, etc., as it deems necessary for the conduct of the African RGB's responsibilities (including but not exclusively the approval for sannyasi candidates, guru nominations etc).
7. Resolving any conflicts within Africa that are beyond the scope of a single African country/zone. This includes handling of complaints on regional matters referred to it by the GBC Body, Zonal Councils, any ISKCON official or body, or from individuals.
8. Where necessary and appropriate, undertaking disciplinary action against ISKCON officials and/or other members serving in Africa, as allowed under ISKCON law for such a body.

Therefore,

to this end, we propose to establish an African RGB with the following Rules and Regulations.

Signed



GBC: Southern & Eastern Africa



GBC: Western Africa

2. Membership

2.1. Composition of the RGB

The RGB shall be composed of:

- 1.** Three (3) **Zonal Secretaries** (commonly referred to as GBC members or simply 'GBCs'. The term 'GBC member(s)' will be used for the remainder of this document) corresponding to the **3 Zones in Africa (Southern, Eastern, Western)**, *ex officio* positions.
- 2.** Six (6) **Zonal Supervisors** (2 each for Southern, Eastern and Western), each nominated by a GBC member, then voted on by the 3 GBC members.
- 3.** Adhoc Invitees as required, **for example:**
 - Minister of Communications
 - Vaisnavi Minister
 - Youth Minister

Administrative staff are not Regular Voting members of the RGB. The Administrative member may participate in Straw Voting but not in Regular Voting nor in Special Voting.

2.2. Rules for Election

2.2.1. The three Zonal Secretaries, commonly referred to as GBC Members

These are *ex officio* positions: each of the 3 GBC members are on the RGB by virtue of being the GBC member responsible for one of the 3 specific African Zones. Thus, their term on the RGB corresponds exactly with their service as a GBC Zonal Secretary (GBC member) as appointed annually at the AGM of the ISKCON GOVERNING BODY COMMISSION SOCIETY of West Bengal.

2.2.2. The Six Zonal Supervisors

The six (6) Zonal Supervisors¹ are nominated by GBC members. Each GBC member can nominate two Zonal Supervisor. Nomination is followed by an approval process. Each candidate must receive two (2) of the three (3) GBC votes to be chosen to serve on the RGB.

In the rare case that there is no Zonal Supervisor or that the

¹ As defined by the 2016 Resolution creating this position: see also Appendix A

available Zonal Supervisor is not accepted by at least 2 GBC members, the RGB members may select another senior leader to fill the role, using the same process as above, i.e., that each candidate must receive two (2) of the three (3) GBC votes to be chosen to serve on the RGB.

The terms of the Zonal Supervisors are *two years*, with the possibility of up to three consecutive terms. Future terms are also possible after a gap of one term (two years). Terms will start and end with the calendar year. Terms will be staggered.

When a Zonal Supervisor's term ends, the GBC member for that Zone can nominate one Zonal Supervisor. The previously serving Zonal Supervisor is eligible for nomination for up to two more consecutive terms. After re-nomination, the approval process is the same as for a candidate being nominated for the first time, which is that each candidate must receive two (2) of the three (3) GBC votes.

If a Zonal Supervisor member of the RGB retires or otherwise leaves office before his or her term is complete, the GBC member for that Zone will nominate another Zonal Supervisor to finish the term of the retiring member. The candidate will be voted on by the

3 GBC members. The candidate must receive two (2) of the three (3) GBC votes. Succession planning is considered throughout the membership term.

The first term of that new member shall end when the term of the Zonal Supervisor they are replacing ends. They may then be chosen to continue to serve as an RGB member, by the standard process. They shall serve no more than 3 consecutive terms including the initial partial term.

2.2.3. Other ex officio Members

Additionally, adhoc ministers can be opted in as required – they will be *ex officio* members of the RGB.

The above **nine (9) members** are the Regular Voting Members of the RGB.

African Ministers of other Ministries are always welcome at RGB meetings. They participate in Straw Voting but not in Regular Voting nor in Special Voting.

African Ministers, who must reside in Africa, shall be nominated by their respective Global Ministers and affirmed annually by a majority vote of the existing RGB voting members. If there is a disagreement in selection between the Global Minister and the RGB, the matter will be referred to the GBC Executive Committee for its final decision.

All African Ministers may present proposals, and they are specifically requested to bring the perspective of their Ministry on the topics discussed and to use their influence to assist the RGB to see topics from all angles of vision. They may at times be formally requested to attend to provide insight on a particular agenda item.

2.3. Member discipline and removal

A member of the RGB can be placed on leave or removed for:

- Repeated failure to perform their assigned duties, including attendance at RGB meetings (see Responsibilities)
- Serious violations of ISKCON's moral principles (including CPO adverse findings)
- Actions that bring ISKCON into disrepute
- Criminal activity

For matters of discipline, the Executive Committee may, at their discretion, or upon the recommendation of another RGB member, deliver a warning to an allegedly erring member. If the problem is not corrected, the Executive Committee will deliver a second warning. After warning the same member a second time, if the problem continues, the Executive Committee will convene a committee of 3 RGB members, or other senior devotees chosen by the Executive Committee, to hear all sides and make a recommendation.

During the deliberations of the committee, the allegedly erring member will lose their voting privileges.

The Regular Voting Members, except the allegedly erring member, will vote on the recommendations of the committee. A vote to remove a member requires a 2/3 majority to pass. This vote is also subject to the GBC veto discussed in the section on voting.

If the RGB votes to discipline or remove a GBC member, the issue will be referred to the GBC body for their further action. If the RGB votes to discipline or remove an African Minister, the issue will be referred to the applicable Ministry, for that body's further review and further corrective action.

2.4. General Rights and Responsibilities of the RGB and its Members

2.4.1. Rights

- To be advised of the issues which pertain to the whole region (Africa)
- To receive two weeks' notice of the date and agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- To vote according to their conscience
- To express any concerns and opinions in a reasonable and respectful manner on the issues put before the RGB as an equal participant and member of the RGB, regardless of seniority, position within the institution, asrama, gender, age or any other factor
- Notwithstanding the above, 3 of African GBC members must support any RGB decision for it to stand

2.4.2. Responsibilities

- To ensure that the mission of His Divine Grace A.C.

Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada as described in the Seven Purposes of ISKCON is promoted and achieved in Africa in conjunction with, and with the support of, the individual GBC members, Zonal Supervisors, individual ISKCON corporations and these corporations' officers across Africa

- To promote cooperation and shared planning within ISKCON in Africa to achieve the above
- To ensure that the laws and policies of the ISKCON Governing Body Commission (GBC) are upheld and implemented in Africa
- To set policies, as appropriate for the African ISKCON Temples and communities, in line with global ISKCON GBC Laws and the teachings of His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
- To ensure that the RGB is supported by adequate staff, including an Administrative Director chosen by the RGB by majority vote. Their terms and duties will be determined by the RGB
- To ensure that there is a legally incorporated entity which can support the administrative functions of the RGB, and that it functions according to all local, state/provincial and national laws

- To connect ISKCON centres in Africa with available support in relation to child protection and in relation to conduct of leaders.
- To ensure that the necessary offices are reviewed and, if approved, reaffirmed, along with their directors annually
- To support efforts and structures to enhance the effectiveness of Temple Presidents, Zonal Supervisors, Regional Secretaries, African Ministers, African Offices, and Duty Officers, per the policies established by the global GBC body.
- To work toward developing regional offices and representatives for Ministries as deemed necessary by the RGB.
- To organize at least one annual meeting of all African RGB members, all Temple Presidents, and other African leaders in good standing to discuss and coordinate strategic plans and other issues of importance for ISKCON Africa
- To report annually to the global GBC body
- To serve on committees that may be established from time to time by the RGB
- To promote support of and cooperation with the RGB within their area of responsibility
- To keep confidentiality on topics so deemed
- To attend a minimum number or minimum percentage of

meetings as specified by current policy

2.5. RGB Executive Committee

The RGB will have an Executive Committee composed of a Chair, a First Vice-Chair and a Second Vice-Chair recruited, voted into office, and rotating in the same way as the Executive Committee of the global GBC body.

2.5.1. Rules for Election of Executive Committee Officers

Appointments of the members of the RGB Executive Committee shall be made as follows:

1. A new Executive Committee member shall be elected each year to serve as the Second Vice-Chair.
2. The sitting Second Vice-Chair shall become the First Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.
3. The sitting First Vice-Chair shall become Chair for the upcoming year.
4. If a member resigns or is not reconfirmed, the other Executive Committee members shall move up and a new member shall be elected by the RGB to fill the Second Vice Chair position.

Executive Committee officers shall be confirmed annually by majority vote of the Regular Voting members of the RGB.

2.5.2. Duties of Executive Committee Officers

The RGB Executive Committee shall:

- call for, at a minimum, bi-monthly RGB meetings
- call for an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and preside over the voting and appointments of new RGB members
- liaise with the global GBC Executive Committee (EC) for all necessary purposes
- recruit and hire suitable staff to support the work of the RGB with the annual budget established by a majority vote of the RGB

The RGB Executive Committee Chair shall:

- call for meeting agenda items from all RGB members
- prepare and distribute agendas for meetings
- chair the meetings
- handle issues of member discipline and removal as per the Member Discipline and Removal section of these Rules and Regulations

When the Chair is not available, the duties of the Chair will be performed by the Vice-Chair.

2.6. How RGB Meetings are Convened and Conducted

Meetings may be held in person, or via an online format such as Zoom.

2.7. Frequency

Meetings shall be held bi-monthly (every two months). The Executive Committee may call for additional meetings at its discretion.

2.8. Quorum

The presence of 2/3 of the Regular Voting Members of the RGB constitutes a **quorum** at any RGB meeting, but only if **at least 3 GBC members** or their substitutes are present.

If for any reason, a quorum is not present for two consecutive meetings, or in an emergency or time-sensitive situation, any 2 GBC members will constitute a quorum for any and all business that needs to be conducted.

2.9. Attendance of GBC Members

Participation by all 3 GBC members in charge of Zones in African is critical to the effective functioning of the RGB. However, it is possible that a GBC member might not be able to attend some meetings.

A GBC member may be excused from attendance under the following conditions:

At the beginning of the year, the GBC member provides the name of a substitute to attend in place of the GBC member.

- The substitute cannot be already a member of the RGB.
- The other 2 GBC members unanimously vote to accept the named substitute for the coming year.

This substitute counts toward reaching a quorum the same as the GBC member would have counted, and is empowered to vote in place of the GBC member.

2.10. Agenda Items

Proposed agenda items for regular monthly meetings shall be sent in beforehand and compiled by the Chair after seeking input from all RGB members.

Additional agenda items, if not approved by the Chair in advance, will be considered if requested by a minimum of 3 members, or by 2 GBC members.

2.11. Discussion of Items

The Chair invites all members to participate in discussions.

2.12. Voting

Voting shall be done on the basis of one person, one vote.

Straw Voting takes place at meetings to get a sense of the RGB's current opinion on a specific proposal or topic of discussion.

Abstentions for lack of preparedness to vote are discouraged. Abstentions are allowed with rationale.

Regular voting: Regular proposals are decided by simple majority.

Special voting: Any proposals related to changing any aspect of these

Rules and Regulations must be decided by a 2/3 majority.

A 2/3 majority of Regular Voting Members are required to increase the number of Regular Voting Members of any category.

The RGB recognizes that the Executive Committee of the global GBC body may from time to time promulgate additional standards for the Rules and Regulations, as directed by the GBC Executive Committee, and these additional standards would take effect without requiring a vote of the RGB.

Voting may take place with electronic support such as a Google Survey or other method at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Proposed resolutions are presented with sufficient detail Whereas clauses that the context and rationale are clear.

Veto: If three GBC members disagree with a decision of the RGB, it may be referred to a discussion and vote of only the 3 GBC members. Such a review and vote should be held within three weeks, so as not to impede the effective functioning of the RGB. If a 2/3 majority of GBC members reject the result of an African RGB vote, that vote will become null and void and returned to the RGB for further discussion.

If, after a second round of discussion, a 2/3 majority of GBC members does not support a proposal that has the approval of a 2/3 majority of the RGB, it may be referred to ISKCON Resolve for mediation. In all cases, 2/3 of African GBC members must support any RGB decision for it to stand.

Administrative staff are not members of the RGB and thus do not vote in Regular Voting or Special Voting.

3. Procedures for Reporting to the GBC Body on RGB Membership and Proceedings

Any resolutions passed by the RGB shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary of the GBC body not later than one month after being adopted (in accordance with the GBC Resolution passed in 2010: Update on 3.4.1.5.1 Reporting Duties).

An annual report, including all resolutions and decisions adopted in the previous year, shall be sent to the GBC body along with the names of current members and the minutes of the RGB AGM.

The annual report will also be distributed to all RGB members, all African Ministry representatives, all Zonal Supervisors, and all Temple Presidents.

3.1 Procedures for Maintaining a Records of the Official Proceedings

Minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by an administrative staff member or by a member designated by the Chair. The minutes shall include:

- date
- members present and absent and regrets

- agenda items
- conclusions and/or resolutions made
- results of votes
- action items
- person(s) responsible for the action items' completion

The minutes shall be kept as the official records of the RGB in both hard and electronic copy by the appointed person above. Electronic copies shall be available to any African RGB member and Temple President upon request.

All decisions of the RGB will be sent to the African Ministry representatives and Zonal Supervisors within 14 days of their passage.

3.2 Procedures for Changing these Rules and Regulations

See the paragraph on Special Voting in the section on Voting, which states:

Special voting: Any proposals related to changing any aspect of these Rules and Regulations must be decided by a 2/3 majority.

The RGB recognizes that the secretary of the global GBC body may also from time to time promulgate additional standards for what is to be included in the Rules and Regulations, as directed by the GBC Executive Committee, and these additional standards would take effect without requiring a vote. [This paragraph is intentionally repeated from the section on Voting]

4. Appendix A - Definitions

4.1 GBC Body

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada established the Governing Body Commission (GBC) to be the ultimate managing authority of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The GBC's primary responsibility is to preserve, disseminate and carry out the instructions of Srila Prabhupada, and is entrusted with the task of overseeing the management and spiritual standards of all ISKCON centers, affiliated projects, and members. Working under the GBC are additional managerial authorities such as regional governing bodies (RGBs) and temple presidents. An executive director, ISKCON ministers and GBC deputies further support the GBC in their duties.

4.2 GBC Zonal Secretary (GBC member)

A Zonal Secretary is a member of the GBC Body appointed by the GBC Body to oversee ISKCON Temples and other ISKCON projects in a specific geographical area designated as a “zone”. The Zonal

Secretary is overall responsible for the management and administration of a zone and is ultimately fully accountable to the GBC Body.

4.3 Zonal Supervisor

The Zonal Supervisor's primary duty and responsibility is to assist the GBC Zonal Secretary in the administration according to the service description delineated in the GBC Resolution creating the position of Zonal Supervisor, published in the [minutes of the 2016 GBC AGM](#), which states:

Before formal appointment the candidate Zonal Supervisors shall undergo a standard process of assessment, induction, training and development administered under the supervision of the GBC Succession Committee.

RGB Requirements for an African Zonal Supervisor to be elected to the RGB:

- 1.** Must have graduated from the Zonal Supervisor Training offered by the GBC College for Leadership Development
- 2.** Must have been appointed as a Zonal Supervisor by the GBC

body

3. Must work collegially with the TPs in the zone and be actively involved in zonal projects
4. Must work in cooperation with the RGB, Administrative Director and other Zonal Supervisors, especially in compliance and missionary programs