

AGREEMENT No.01 DE 2020

(July 01, 2020)

Whereby the regulations, functions and integration of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are defined

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION (CESU)

Pursuant to its legal powers, especially those set out in Article 54 of Law 30/1992
"Whereby the public service of Higher Education is organized".

IT IS HEREBY AGREED:

CHAPTER I

NATURE, MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

Article 1. Nature. The National Accreditation Council (CNA, for the Spanish original) is a sectoral advisory and coordinating body created by Article 54 of Law 30/1992, of an academic nature, with the functions of coordination, planning, recommendation and advice on the accreditation of higher education institutions and academic programs in Colombia.

Article 2. Mission. The mission of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) is to lead the development and conceptual enrichment of the National Accreditation System, through the development of theoretical documents and guidelines, in close collaboration with the country's academic and scientific communities, with the endorsement of the National Council of Higher Education (CESU, for the Spanish original). It will also ensure society that the institutions that are part of the National

Accreditation System provided for in Article 53 of Law 30/1992, comply with the requirements of high quality while fulfilling their purposes and objectives in accordance with their legal nature, identity, mission and type.

Article 3. Functions. The functions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are as follows:

- a) Promote the accreditation processes of higher education institutions and academic programs in Colombia. To this end, the National Accreditation Council (CNA) will provide technical assistance, support and training to promote the consolidation and permanent strengthening of excellence.
- b) Follow up and periodically assess the High Quality Accreditation Model, and submit reports to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), giving an account of its implementation and evolution.
- c) Develop and periodically update guidelines for the accreditation of higher education institutions and academic programs, in response to social, local, regional, and national dynamics, as well as international trends. The guidelines will be submitted to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) for review and approval.
- d) Recommend to the Ministry of National Education the accreditation of Colombian higher education institutions and academic programs that have successfully passed the assessment process, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures that make up the High Quality Accreditation Model.
- e) Provide the institutions, within a framework of confidentiality, with the relevant recommendations for improvement when, as a result of the comprehensive assessment, it considers that the high quality conditions for achieving the accreditation of the institution or academic program have not been achieved.
- f) Promote the culture of self-assessment and continuous improvement, as an ongoing task of the country's institutions and as an integral part of the high quality accreditation process.
- g) Promote the cooperation and exchange of information, resources and good practices between Colombian and foreign institutions.
- h) Promote the transfer of knowledge and information of different accreditation systems around the world, to enrich the activities of encouragement and qualification of the processes of self-assessment, external assessment and continuous improvement of higher education institutions and academic

programs in Colombia.

- i) Promote and contribute to the interconnection of the different accreditation systems so that they support topics such as: international accreditations and certifications, student and professor mobility, recognition of qualifications, validation of credits, recognition of levels of study and academic programs.
- j) Encourage and promote research, reflection and analysis of the current dynamics of higher education from the perspective of assessment and accreditation.
- k) Promote and support the conclusion of multilateral agreements with international accreditation agencies, for the benefit of advancing the excellence of higher education in Colombia.
- l) Promote and conduct studies on the quality of higher education, good practices, experiences, trends and perspectives of higher education and accreditation, to provide feedback to the academic community.
- m) Promote processes of ongoing improvement and qualification of academic programs of higher education at the international level.
- n) Any others that defined by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), in accordance with its competencies and the provisions established by law.

Paragraph. For the purposes of this resolution, the term "institutions" means higher education institutions and all

those authorized by law to offer and develop academic programs of higher education.

CHAPTER II

COMPOSITION, REQUIREMENTS AND ORGANIZATION

Article 4. Composition. The National Accreditation Council (CNA) will be comprised of nine (9) academics of the highest scientific, academic and professional qualities, of national and international distinction, belonging to the Colombian academic community, who will be appointed by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) as a result of public calls for applications, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 hereof.

The National Council of Higher Education (CESU) will make its best efforts to integrate the National Accreditation Council (CNA) with experts from different regions of the country, who are or have been working with institutions of different legal nature, identity, mission and type, without being able to appoint two (2) or more persons working with the same institution.

In any case, it will be ensured that each of the areas of knowledge established in the National Information System for Higher Education (SNIES, for the Spanish original) are represented and that at least one (1) of the members has experience in academic and assessment processes of quality at the professional technical and technological levels and one (1) member has experience in academic and assessment processes in distance, virtual, hybrid modalities or the combinations thereof.

Paragraph 1. Individuals holding the permanent or temporary position of President, Director, Registered Agent, Vice President or Registrar of an institution cannot apply to become a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

Paragraph 2. None of the Council members will act on behalf on any institution or association.

Article 5. Council Member profile. Being appointed as a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) is a great honor and responsibility that the Colombian higher education system confers upon those who, based on their academic performance, in-depth knowledge, holistic understanding of higher education and because of their ethics, have achieved the national and international recognition of academic and scientific communities.

This status requires the commitment of time and dedication to the purposes of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) and in general to the National Accreditation System, which must be fulfilled through collaborative work with the other members of the Council, maintaining the absolute confidentiality of the information learned through high quality accreditation processes and acting without bias prejudice and particular interests, thus enabling members to recognize and value the diversity of academic programs and institutions.

The members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) must have skills and abilities in the areas of leadership, listening and verbal fluency, argumentative and reflective capacity, and the aptitudes of analysis and integration of knowledge acquired in different fields of study.

Article 6. Requirements to be a member of the National Accreditation Council

(CNA). To be a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), the following requirements must be met:

- a) Having an academic qualification at the doctoral level or a medical/surgical specialization.
- b) Being of having been a full time professor at institutions for at least ten (10) years or part time with a workload equivalent to ten (10) years as a full time professor.
- c) Accrediting experience in academic administration positions in institutions for at least seven (7) years.
- d) Demonstrating a track record in research, technological development or innovation and projects in groups recognized or classified by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- e) Demonstrating knowledge of the National Higher Education Quality Assurance System, its components, bodies, regulations, processes, projection and mechanisms of articulation with the National Accreditation System.
- f) Demonstrating participation in the implementation and execution of at least one higher education institution or academic program accreditation process with the National Accreditation Council (CNA) in the last five (5) years.
- g) Accrediting experience in quality assessment processes of higher education at the national or international level.
- h) Not being under any of the grounds of disqualification, ineligibility, incompatibility or conflict of interest established in the Political Constitution and the law.
- i) Not having any current criminal, disciplinary, fiscal or administrative penalties.

Paragraph 1. In accordance with the provisions of Article 8 hereof, in the instructions for each call for applications, the Ministry of National Education provide information on how candidates must accredit each of the requirements established therein.

Paragraph 2. When necessary, experience in the production sector will be required, in accordance with the area of knowledge and the profile set out in the call for applications.

Article 7. Selection of the members of the National Accreditation Council

(CNA). The National Council of Higher Education (CESU), with the support of its Technical Secretariat, is the body responsible for selecting the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA). This process will be carried out by the Ministry of National Education through public calls for applications, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6, in compliance with the stages and activities established in Article 8 hereof and the merit-based assessment procedures.

Article 8. Process to select the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA). The process to select the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) will be carried out in accordance with the following stages and activities:

Stage I: Publication of the call for applications, registration and verification of requirements

Stage I activities

1. Publication of the call for applications and its instructions.
2. Submission of requests for clarification regarding the instructions.
3. Response to the requests for clarification.
4. Registration to participate in the selection process.
5. Verification of requirements to become a member of the National Accreditation Council and grounds for exclusion.
6. Publication of the list of eligible and excluded candidates.
7. Term for rectification.
8. Verification of documents provided during the term for rectification.
9. Publication of the preliminary list of eligible candidates to participate in the selection process.
10. Receipt of requests, complaints or claims regarding the preliminary list of eligible candidates to participate in the selection process.
11. Response to the requests, complaints or claims regarding the preliminary list of eligible candidates to participate in the selection process.
12. Publication of the final list of eligible candidates to take the knowledge and psychometric tests.
13. Call to take knowledge tests.

14. Administration of knowledge tests.
15. Publication of the results on the knowledge tests.
16. Term to file requests, complaints or claims regarding the results on the knowledge tests.
17. Response to the requests, complaints or claims regarding the results on the knowledge tests.
18. Call to take psychometric tests.
19. Administration of psychometric tests.

Stage II - Interviews, selection and appointment

Stage II activities

1. Publication of the shortlist of candidates and call to interview
2. Interviews
3. Selection of the new Council member
4. Notice of appointment of the selected candidate
5. Appointment of the new member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) before the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).

The Ministry of National Education will give the respective instructions to carry out the stages and activities of the call for applications in each selection process.

Paragraph. If the provisions of Article 10 (a) of this Agreement are met, the selection process must begin at least six (6) months prior to the end of the Council member's term. For the situations described in the other items of said Article, the selection process of the new member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) must begin within two (2) months following the date on which the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) became aware of the occurrence of the respective grounds.

Article 9. Term of the Council members. The members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) will have a term of five (5) years and may not be reelected. The appointment as a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) is nondelegable.

Paragraph. If a replacement has not been appointed by the end of the term of a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), it will be understood that

his/her term has been extended until the appointment of the new Council member. In any case, the extension may not exceed three (3) months, during which time the new Council member must be appointed through the process set out in Article 8 hereof.

Article 10. *Loss of membership on the National Accreditation Council.*

Membership on the National Accreditation Council (CNA) is lost upon:

- a) Termination of the term for which the member was appointed.
- b) Death.
- c) Permanent disability preventing the member from carrying out his/her functions. Resignation as a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) accepted by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU)
- d) Judgment or decision of a competent body declaring the corresponding liability
- e) and/or ineligibility of the member due to acts committed before or during his/her term or situations occurred during the practice of his/her profession.
- f) Being the subject of criminal, disciplinary, fiscal or administrative penalties while serving as a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

Article 11. *Ad hoc Council member.* An ad hoc Council member shall be appointed in the following situations:

- a) When any of the grounds under Article 10 (b) through (f) hereof is incurred, the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) shall appoint an academic who has been a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) on a previous occasion, as an ad hoc Council member. The ad hoc Council member shall comply with the profile defined herein and represent the missing area of knowledge. The appointment shall be made for a maximum term of three (3) months, and may be extended once for an equal term.
- b) When a member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) must be absent from his/her functions as a Council member for a term of three (3) months or more, as a result of medical disability or leave of absence duly granted by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU). In this case, the appointment shall be made in accordance with the provisions set forth in the preceding item.

Article 12. Organization. The National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall be organized and composed as follows:

- a) **General Accreditation Chamber:** Comprised of the nine (9) members referred to in Article 4 hereof.

- b) **Coordination of the CNA:** The National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall elect a Coordinator from among the Council members of the General Chamber, who will chair the sessions and act as a spokesperson before the Ministry of National Education, the CESU and other bodies of the educational sector. The Coordinator shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 hereof.

- c) **Special Temporary Chambers:** The National Council of Higher Education (CESU) may authorize the creation of special temporary chambers with the required number of members, in accordance with the specific assessment needs of the academic programs or institutions. The minutes of authorization shall define the integration mechanism and shall in any case be subject to the provisions of Article 17 hereof.

- d) **Technical Commissions:** The National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall have a technical commission that may be composed of academic experts who have been members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) in previous terms, Colombian or foreign academic experts, representatives of the Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education, heads of the Colombian Institute for Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad founded by Mariano Ospina Pérez (ICETEX, for the Spanish original), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the academic and scientific communities in general, the advisory bodies of the National Government, the associations involved in the development of higher education and the productive sector. This commission will meet when called by the Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) and at least once per semester. Participation in these sessions will not entail the payment of any fees.

In any case, the National Accreditation Council may propose the creation of transitory advisory or technical commissions to study and provide specific support in matters related to its functions. These commissions will require prior approval by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) and their composition will be defined by the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

- e) Technical Secretariat:** For its operation, the National Accreditation Council (CNA) will have a Technical Secretariat comprised by personnel of the Accreditation Group of the Higher Education Quality Assurance Subdivision appointed by the Ministry of National Education, who will fulfill the duties set out in Article 18 hereof. Whoever holds the position of Coordinator of the Accreditation Group shall also play the role of Technical Secretary of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- f) Academic peers:** The external assessment stage of the accreditation process shall be carried out with the support of academic peers appointed by the National Accreditation Council (CNA) from the peer database who shall fulfill the duties set out in Article 19 hereof.

Article 13. Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council - Election and periodicity. The Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), who shall fulfill the duties set out in Article 16 hereof, shall be chosen through an election, which shall be held in an ordinary session and shall require a simple majority of the votes of the members of this body. The term of the Coordinator will be one (1) year and he/she may be re-elected for the same term, just once, as long as his/her term as member of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) is in force.

CHAPTER III FUNCTIONS AND RIGHTS

Article 14. Functions of the members of the National Accreditation Council. The functions of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are as follows:

- a)** Conduct visits to review the initial conditions of academic programs and institutions, the support visits requested by the institutions and follow-up and assessment visits.
- b)** Review external assessment reports submitted by academic peers and request any adjustments necessary.
- c)** Select the academic peers to conduct the external assessment visits of academic programs and institutions.

- d) Study the documents of the accreditation processes submitted for their consideration, and prior to each session, prepare the presentations for examination and approval at the plenary session of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- e) Attend the ordinary and extraordinary sessions, abstaining from participating in the discussions and votes that refer to the institution or institutions with which they have a legal, regulatory, labor or civil relationship or have had such a relationship during the last five (5) years.
- f) Participate in the examination and assessment of the accreditation processes and in the other decisions and issues on the agendas of each session.
- g) Present reports at the sessions of the General Chamber, regarding the results of the processes assigned, visits carried out and reports requested by the Coordinator or the Technical Secretariat of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- h) Sign the concepts, recommendations, reports and other documents issued by the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- i) Participate in meetings and events convened by the Ministry of National Education related to accreditation, quality assurance and other topics.
- j) By delegation of the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), represent the National Accreditation Council (CNA) before national and international organizations in which it serves or to which it is invited as an accrediting institution.
- k) Attend the calls or summonses of the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).
- l) Any others assigned by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).

Article 15. *Duties of the members of the National Accreditation Council.* The duties of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are as follows:

- a) Refrain from giving advice to institutions.
- b) Examine the matters assigned with rigor, diligence and impartiality.
- c) Report to the plenary session any ethical or contractual situations that would prevent them from participating in dealing with the matters assigned.

- d) Comply with the provisions regarding ineligibilities and incompatibilities, conflict of interest and prohibitions established in the Constitution and the law.
- e) Maintain the absolute confidentiality of the information known on the occasion of their condition as Council members.
- f) When representing the National Accreditation Council (CNA) as delegates on boards of directors or in national and international academic events, provide an oral and written report in the session after the event, to the General Chamber of the National Accreditation Council (CNA). The written report will be the requirement to legalize the commission and must contain information on the date, objectives of the event, steps taken, conclusions and commitments agreed.
- g) Request the authorization of the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) for the temporary separation from their exercise as Council members due to medical disability or the fulfillment of commissions to study abroad.
- h) Be familiar with, observe and comply with this Agreement and the complementary rules.
- i) Act with transparency, integrity and honesty in the performance of their duties.
- j) Any others assigned by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).

Article 16. *Rights of the members of the National Accreditation Council.* The rights of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are as follows:

- a) Participate in the sessions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) with a say and voting rights.
- b) Attend national and international events delegated to them as representatives of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- c) Be excused for up to two (2) consecutive absences from the sessions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), as long as they are duly justified to the Coordinator and the Technical Secretariat.
- d) Disagree with the position adopted by other members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) in cases where they so determine and justify their disagreement to the Chamber.
- e) Justifiably request extensions from the Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) for the submission of their reports or

presentations. Said extension are granted one time only and for the term established by the General Chamber or the Coordinator, which may be no longer than the term initially granted.

- f) Punctually receive the fees established for their activities, following submission of the invoice or bill as applicable, along with any other documents and requirements established in the current regulations.

Article 17. *Duties of the Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council.* The duties of the Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are as follows:

- a) Call for and chair the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- b) Coordinate the agenda of activities for each session of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- c) Establish efficient mechanisms to respond to the academic community that submits questions or queries regarding the processes and functions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- d) To guide the plans, programs, activities and projects carried out by the National Accreditation Council (CNA), in accordance with its functions.
- e) As defined by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), represent the National Accreditation Council (CNA) before national and international organizations in which it serves or the scenarios in which it is invited as an accrediting institution.
- f) Submit a quarterly management report to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), in order to ensure the fulfillment of the goals of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- g) Submit the annual action plan of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).
- h) Grant extensions to the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) for the submission of their reports or presentations.
- i) Coordinate the transition activities with the new Council members appointed by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), in order to enable the continuity of the exercise, the traceability of the information and the institutional memory of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- j) Arrange through the Ministry of National Education for the publication and

socialization of the academic and investigative production of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) related to topics of quality assurance and accreditation.

- k)** Report to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) any situations that he/she considers are not being addressed by the Council members, pursuant to the provisions set forth herein.

Paragraph. In the event that the Coordinator is unable to attend any session, the General Chamber may, for such session or sessions, temporarily assign the coordination to another member. This assignment shall be made based on the simple majority of the votes cast by attending members.

Article 18. *Duties of the special temporary chambers and technical commissions.* The members appointed by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) to make up the special temporary chambers and technical commissions are required to comply with the provisions of this agreement as it applies to them.

Article 19. *Duties of the Technical Secretariat and the Support Team.* The duties of the Technical Secretariat and the Support Team are as follows:

- a)** Observe and comply with this Agreement.
- b)** Attend the meetings and technical support visits for which they are appointed or called on.
- c)** Submit the reports requested by the National Accreditation Council (CNA), the National Council of Higher Education (CESU) and the Ministry of National Education.
- d)** Maintain the absolute confidentiality of the information learned regarding the processes and in the performance of their functions or activities, as applicable.
- e)** Ensure the custody and preservation of the information provided by the institutions in each of the processes.

The aforementioned duties shall be carried out at the facilities designated by the Ministry of National Education, except for the technical support provided at the different institutions, with following authorization from the immediate superior or the supervisor.

Article 20. *Duties of the academic peers.* The duties and obligations set out in the Agreement that regulates the High Quality Accreditation Model, or the model serving as such, shall apply to academic peers, along with any others defined by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).

CHAPTER IV OPERATION

Article 21. *Organization of the sessions and other activities of the National Accreditation Council.* For the purposes of organizing the agendas of the sessions and other activities, the following guidelines will be taken into account:

- a) The Technical Secretariat shall distribute among the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), equitably and at random, the processes assigned for each session within the first week of each month.
- b) Council members shall upload the respective presentations to the Higher Education Quality Assurance System (SACES, for the Spanish original) or the system serving as such.
- c) In the case of reconsiderations, by virtue of the principles of due process, the same distribution criteria shall be applied, provided that the assigned Council member is not the same as the one who made the initial presentation.
- d) Reports on the visit to review the initial conditions, the support visit, and the follow-up and assessment visits, shall be uploaded to SACES or the system serving as such.
- e) When Council members are required to postpone a visit to review initial conditions or a support visit, except in situations of force majeure, they must inform the National Accreditation Council (CNA) about the change, at least one week in advance, in order to carry out the corresponding administrative procedures and inform the institution for which the process is being carried out.

Article 22. *Development of the sessions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).* The National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall hold ordinary sessions every month at its headquarters in Bogotá or extraordinary sessions when called by the Coordinator in the place established. Ordinary sessions shall be scheduled in the annual calendar of sessions, which shall be approved by a simple majority at the last

session of the preceding year.

For the development of the sessions, the following shall be taken into account:

Under no circumstances may a Council member attend sessions to discuss the accreditation processes of institutions with which he/she has declared a conflict of interest or has been precluded.

The sessions will begin after the quorum has been verified when attendance is taken by the Technical Secretary. The quorum required to deliberate and decide shall be half plus one of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), and the attendance of the Coordinator shall be necessary, who may exceptionally be absent when on an official delegation or for reasons of force majeure or act of god. In this case he/she shall be replaced by the Council member who is assigned for that purpose.

Concepts on the comprehensive assessment shall be issued by consensus. However, in case of disagreement, they shall be submitted to a vote and shall be decided by simple majority. Also, the positions that disagree with the majority shall be admitted and recorded in the minutes with due justification.

The proposed agenda and the previous minutes shall be provided to the Council members, at least eight (8) days prior to the ordinary session, so that they may study its content and propose the inclusion of other matters to be addressed.

The sessions shall take place according to the agenda and the Coordinator shall ensure that the agenda is followed.

The session will last at least two (2) days and will be adjourned by the Coordinator when there are no further items on the scheduled agenda or when the quorum is incomplete due to a force majeure. If this is the case, an extraordinary session shall be called for the following week to conclude any pending issues.

The Technical Secretariat shall provide the Higher Education Quality Assurance System (SACES), or the system serving as such, with the necessary information to discuss the issues set out in the agenda of the corresponding session.

The Technical Secretariat shall draft the minutes of each session, which shall include the names of the attendees and guests, the matters discussed and the agreements adopted, and shall specify when there is no consensus or unanimity. It will also keep an accurate record of the positions that disagree with the majority concept.

The Technical Secretariat will submit a monthly follow-up report on pending tasks and those assigned to the Council members at each session. This report will be

monitored by the Coordinator for the proper achievement of the goals proposed by the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

The National Accreditation Council (CNA), with the prior approval of the General Chamber and through its Coordinator, may invite to the ordinary or extraordinary sessions representatives of institutions and organizations

national and international academics, as well as academic experts and anyone else deemed relevant for the fulfillment of their duties. Guests will have a period of time defined on the agenda, in accordance with to the topic to be discussed, and in no case will they be able to attend when the review and assessment of the accreditation process of academic programs or institutions is being carried out.

The sessions of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) may be held face-to-face or virtually.

The agenda for each session will be prepared according to the format approved by the General Chamber of the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

Article 23. *Coordination with other Quality Assurance bodies.* In the interest of the consistent performance of its functions, the National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall promote and carry out actions for the coordination and articulation with the National Inter-sectoral Commission for Higher Education Quality Assurance (CONACES, for the Spanish original).

For this purpose, sessions will be scheduled, at least once a semester, between the Coordinator of the National Accreditation Council (CNA), the Coordinator of the Coordinators Chamber, the Ministry of National Education, the Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education (ICFES, for the Spanish original) and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation or any other entities considered relevant. If necessary, extended sessions may be scheduled between the National Accreditation Council (CNA) and eligible members of the CONACES Assessment Chambers.

Article 24. *Budget.* The National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall independently prepare the draft annual budget for its proper operation and the performance of the essential activities, which will be submitted annually to the Ministry of National Education through the Technical Secretariat.

CHAPTER V

REGIME ON INELIGIBILITIES, DISQUALIFICATIONS, INCOMPATIBILITIES

AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Article 25. Regime on ineligibilities, disqualifications and incompatibilities.

The members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) are individuals performing administrative functions. They are therefore subject to the regime of ineligibilities, disqualifications, incompatibilities and conflict of interest, as well as the duties and prohibitions provided by the Constitution and the law.

Article 26. Conflict of Interest. When a Council member may have any interest in an assessment because it in any way affects or benefits him/her or his/her spouse, permanent partner or any relative up to the fourth degree of consanguinity, second degree of affinity or first degree by marriage, or his/her de jure or de facto partner(s), he/she must declare such impediment for participating in the reviews, discussions or voting on the respective accreditation processes.

The following conducts represent conflicts of interest:

- a) Leading accreditation and self-assessment processes in the institution for which he/she works and for any other institution.
- b) Existence of serious enmity or close friendship with directors of the institution that has applied for the accreditation process with the National Accreditation Council (CNA).
- c) Having filed a complaint, claim or lawsuit through any body in connection with actions of the institution going through the respective an accreditation process or the directors thereof.
- d) Giving advice in a personal capacity to any Institution.

Article 27. Handling disqualifications and recusals. Disqualifications and recusals of the members of the National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall be handled in accordance with the provisions set out in the Political Constitution and the Law, particularly Law 1437/2011 - Code of Administrative Procedure and Administrative Disputes.

Article 28. Code of Ethics. In its mission activity and for the fulfillment of its objectives, the National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall be guided by a Code of Ethics and Good Governance issued by the National Council of Higher Education (CESU), based on the proposal submitted by the National Accreditation Council (CNA).

Paragraph. In the six (6) months following the issuance of this Agreement, the National Accreditation Council (CNA) shall submit the proposed Code of Ethics and Good Governance referred to herein to the National Council of Higher Education (CESU).

Article 29. *Effective date and repeals.* This Agreement becomes effective as of its publication and supersedes any agreements to the contrary, particularly Agreement 01/2017, and Agreements 01 and 03/2019.

BE IT PUBLISHED AND FULFILLED

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MARIA VICTORIA ANGULO GONZÁLEZ

Chairwoman of the CESU

[Illegible signature]

ELCY PATRICIA PEÑALOZA LEAL

Technical Secretary of the CESU