

## **PREAMBLE**

### **1. MOTIVES**

1.1 .The Liberal Professions count tens of millions of members worldwide and constitute a socioeconomic factor in the international community whose importance by far surpasses the number of their representatives.

1.2. They are united around several fundamental values and criteria of professional conduct (independence, competence, responsibility, ethical conduct, professional secrecy, etc.). These fundamental values and criteria are valid for all Liberal Professions, regardless of the form of the services they provide. Each professional makes it a duty to work for the common good. Their services meet basic civil needs and defend basic civil rights (access to the law, healthcare, etc.). The Liberal Professions therefore act as mediators between the State and its citizens. They play the same role in matters of personal freedom, human rights and security, which in today's world are fundamental values that have traditionally been upheld by the Liberal Professions.

1.3. In many countries, the Liberal Professions have already created unions or interprofessional associations at national level.

At the same time a large number of professions have called for gatherings at world level from within their midst, and constituted international unions or associations.

1.4. Despite the diversity of the political, economic, historical or cultural environment of the countries in which the Liberal Professions exercise their activity, the profiles of these two types of gatherings and the problems they are confronted with are comparable everywhere and often identical.

1.5. The Liberal Professions constitute a specific economic and social sector at international and national level.

1.6. For these reasons it has become necessary and urgent for national organisations representing the professions to organise themselves at international level to take common action.

### **2. AIMS**

The World Union of Professions aims to:

2.1. Promote the image and influence of the organisations representing the Liberal Professions.

2.2. Ensure rapid, full exchange of information concerning the common problems confronting the Liberal Professions on national, bilateral or multilateral levels.

2.3. Study basic or current common concerns on an international level and propose solutions.

2.4. Represent the Liberal Professions before intergovernmental organisations, in particular by obtaining advisory status, which is granted only to non-governmental organisations of international dimensions.

2.5. Obtain, through a worldwide union, the means required to promote the human values and virtues that the Liberal Professions have traditionally defended.

2.6. Assist and support Liberal Professions in difficulty all over the world.

2.7. Establish and maintain intercultural dialogue, in its capacity as a stalwart in civil dialogue at all levels.

## STATUTES

### ARTICLE 1 – OBJECT

- a) – The World Union of Professions is an international non-governmental organisation.
- b) – Its purpose, through its work, studies, research and other appropriate means, is:
- to promote knowledge of and further the development and social function of the Liberal Professions;
  - to represent those professions at international level particularly in international organisations (UNO, OIE, ILO, WTO, WHO, UNESCO, etc.);
  - to establish and maintain permanent relations with the international community in order to develop professional activities, in the higher interest of promoting human rights in modern society;
  - to establish links and reinforce relations between the professional organisations of the world to further the exchange of information and mutual assistance in areas of common interest.
  - to renounce any form of discrimination based on sexual, political, ethnic or religious criteria.

### ARTICLE 2 – NAME

The name of the organisation is:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| -- in French:     | Union Mondiale des Professions Libérales   |
| -- in English:    | World Union of Professions                 |
| -- in German:     | Weltunion der Freien Berufe                |
| -- in Spanish:    | Union Munidal de las Profesiones Liberales |
| -- in Portuguese: | União Mundial des Profissoes, Liberales.   |

### ARTICLE 3 – HEADQUARTERS

The Union has its headquarters in Paris (France).

### ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERS

1. **Active membership** in the World Union of Professions is open to both “national and multinational regional interprofessional” organisations and “single profession” organisations of Liberal Professionals, in the sense understood herein, on condition that the aims of the organisation comply with those of the World Union of Professions.

- a) – A “national interprofessional organisation” is, for each country, a representative organisation that brings together members of Liberal Professions, irrespective of the legal form under which they practice, and pursues aims in compliance with those of the Union.
- b) – A “regional interprofessional” organisation is an organisation bringing together at least five countries in its region.
- c) – An “international single-profession organisation” is an organisation that brings together members of a single profession in at least five countries spread over at least two continents, and pursues aims in compliance with those of the Union.
- d) – Regional or international organisations of Liberal Professions which do not fulfil the above-mentioned conditions may be admitted to the WUP with the status of “**associate member**”.
- e) – In countries where there is no representative interprofessional organisation, an organisation representing a single Liberal Profession at national level, which has agreed to comply with articles 1b and 1c above, may be admitted provisionally as a “**corresponding member**”.
- f) – Professionals in independent practice who are duly registered as members of a professional organisation, whether or not it is itself a member of the WUP, may be admitted to the Union in an individual capacity as “**observing members**”.

If the organisation is a member of the Union, consent of the organisation is required for the member to be admitted with observer status.

Professionals may also be admitted as observing members if they practice in a country where it is impossible for them to be registered with an organisation that is a member of the Union or where there is no member organisation.

An observing member undertakes to uphold the principles enunciated in the preamble and Article 1 of the present statutes.

## **ARTICLE 5 – ADMINISTRATION**

The administrative organs of the World Union of Professions are:

- the General Assembly
- the Executive Council
- the Chair

## **ARTICLES 6 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

a) – The General Assembly is made up of the active member organisations. Each active member organisation appoints one Delegate and up to two assistant Delegates to represent it.

Associate and corresponding members have a consulting vote in the General Assembly.

“Observing members” may attend the General Assembly.

2) – The General Assembly is convened at least once every two years, under the conditions defined by the Internal Regulations.

3) – Each active member organisation represented in the General Assembly has one vote.

a. Decisions are made by a simple majority of the members present or represented by proxy and participating in the vote.

b. Decisions concerning ethics and modification of the present Statutes and the setting of membership dues are made with a two-thirds majority of the active members present or represented by proxy, representing at least half of the member organisations; dissenting opinions must be appended to the minutes.

If a motion referred to in the preceding paragraph is defeated, the Internal Regulations may allow the Executive Council to convene a second meeting in the course of which the decision may be made by a simple majority of the members present or represented by proxy and participating in the vote.

c. The Internal Regulations may authorise a vote by correspondence, in cases to be determined by those regulations and under the conditions stipulated therein.

4. The General Assembly has authority to:

a. elect the members of the Executive Council, and elect the Chair, by separate ballot;

b. appoint the Honorary Presidents who take part in all the deliberations of the Executive Council and in all General Assemblies as non-voting members;

c. express an opinion on the Executive Council’s report on the accounts and the budget;

d. set the membership dues;

e. outline the work of the Executive Council;

f. modify the present Statutes;

g. make any decision in compliance with the present Statutes.

## **ARTICLE 7 – THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1) – The Executive Council comprises:

- The Chairperson elected by the General Assembly under separate ballot;

- Twenty-two (22) elected members, 11 seats being reserved for representatives of interprofessional organisations and 11 seats for single-profession organisations.

2) – The Chair and the other members of the Council elect from among their number:

- 10 Vice-Presidents, including one First Vice-President
- One General Secretary
- One Treasurer

As far as possible, these functions should be shared out pro rata between the two categories of active members.

3) – The Executive Council meets at least twice a year and whenever the Chair deems it necessary or if the majority of members petitions for a meeting.

4) – Its deliberations are valid only if one third of its members are present.

The Internal Regulations may provide for a vote by correspondence or by any other means of communication, in the cases and according to the procedure specified therein.

5) – The Executive Council is authorised to:

- a. carry out the decisions of the General Assembly;
- b. report to the General Assembly on the work accomplished and the initiatives adopted;
- c. draw up and modify the Internal Regulations;
- d. assist the Chair in the exercise of his or her functions and, more generally, in the administration of the Union;
- e. decide on the admission of new members;
- f. transfer if necessary, and on the Chair's request, the secretariat to the city in which the organisation to which the acting Chair belongs is based.

6) – Any decision shall be made by simple majority of the voting members, except decisions in Article 5, paragraph c. which requires a majority of two thirds of the members present.

In the event of a tie, the Chair, or in his or her absence the senior Vice-President, shall have the casting vote.

7) – The Chair is elected for a term of four years. He or she may stand once for re-election.

8) – The Executive Council is elected for a term of four years.

## **ARTICLE 8 – THE CHAIR**

The Chair of the Union chairs the General Assembly and the Executive Council. The Chair is an ex-officio member of any committee or work group.

With the assistance of the Secretary-General, the Chair supervises those working directly for the Union, whether paid employees or not, and carries out the decisions of the Assembly and the Executive Council.

He leads the Union and represents it with respect to third parties and before all authorities, in intergovernmental organisations and before the courts.

## **ARTICLE 9 –DUES**

a) – Membership dues are set annually by the General Assembly on proposals put forward by the Executive Council. The capacity of all active, associate, corresponding or observing members to contribute financially to the Union is taken into account.

b) – The right to vote at the General Assembly and Executive Council and to stand for election to any post whatsoever within the Union shall be withheld if the organisation concerned is not fully up-to-date with its membership dues for the current and previous years.

## **ARTICLE 10 – THE PRESIDENTS’ CONFERENCE**

The Council may, on its own initiative, whenever it considers it opportune in the event of serious difficulties of any nature, convene a conference of all the current Presidents of the active and associate member organisations.

The conference is chaired by the Chair of the Union.

Its aim is:

1) – to hear a report by the Chair and Secretary General of the Union of the action undertaken by the Union since its previous meeting;

2) – to draw up and define the major policy lines of the WUP for the years ahead for submission to the following General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 11 – FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The financial support of the Union comes from:

a) – membership dues,

b) – gifts and subsidies,

c) – any other regular or occasional resources.

## **ARTICLE 12 – REGIONAL SECTIONS**

- a) – To deal with special interests or study issues specific to one region of the world or one or several regions sharing the same culture, the active member organisations may set up “Regional Sections”, within the World Union of Professions, for the purpose of bringing together the members located on the same continent or the same part of a continent.
- b) – These “Regional Sections” must bear the name “... (geographical or cultural designation of the area)... Section of the World Union of Professions”.
- c) – The constitution of a “Regional Section” is subject to the approval of the Executive Council and ratification by the General Assembly.
- d) – The Regional Sections are authorised to study issues concerning their region of the world and to address appropriate motions to the Executive Council or the General Assembly, which shall make a decision at their next meeting.

## **ARTICLE 13 – APPLICABLE LAW**

These statutes are subject to French law.

## **ARTICLE 14 – LANGUAGES**

These statutes are written in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

In case of conflict, the French version shall be decisive.

## **ARTICLE 15 – AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS**

Every two years, the General Assembly shall elect two auditors, who are not members of the Executive Council. These auditors shall examine the accounts of the Union each year and submit a written report to the General Assembly.