

# Constitution



World Family Organization

*Organisation Mondiale de la Famille*

المنظمة العالمية للأسرة

**ENGLISH**

**WORLD FAMILY ORGANIZATION**

Headquarters

28, Place Saint Georges

F75009

Paris - France

+33 1 48 78 07 59

Presidency Office

Rua Ricardo lemos, 206.

CEP: 80.540-030

Curitiba - PR - Brazil

+55 41 32 54 56 78

[www.worldfamilyorganization.org](http://www.worldfamilyorganization.org)

[presidencyoffice@worldfamilyorganization.org](mailto:presidencyoffice@worldfamilyorganization.org)

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## **PREAMBLE**

Members who have adopted the present Constitution, in conformity with their own belief, pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and UN Convention on the Right of Child, recalling the commitments done by governments at the World Social Summit and all other major global UN conferences of the 1990ies, declare that the following principles are basic for the development of stable, safe and just societies in which families and their members have the possibility to freely develop their potentials to the benefit of all.

1. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected.
2. The family should be helped in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles and responsibilities, such as moral, affective and material support. Its contribution to the economic and social development process is essential. They must be accounted for when establishing policies and priorities.
3. The family is central for the transmission of human values and the development of individuals into responsible and self-reliant personalities.
4. Families and their communities are at the very heart of sustainable development. While taking the principle of subsidiarity into account mechanisms encouraging partnerships between the sectors - public authorities, private sector and third sector should be established.
5. Family policy is a cross-sectoral issue, calling for a global co-operation and partnership in order to achieve the empowerment of communities and the construction of a democratic society.

Accepting these principles, and for the purpose of the co-operation among themselves and with others to promote and protect family interests, the Members agree to the present Constitution of the World Family Organization (The International Union of Family Organizations) as a forum for the families of the world.

## **CHAPTER I – OBJECTIVE**

### **Article 1**

The objective of the World Family Organization (The International Union of Family Organizations - hereinafter called the Organization) shall be to represent families of the world at all levels, to defend their interests and to act with them and for them vis a vis governments and the international community. With respect to the United Nations and the consultative process, the Organization shall act as the link between both the aspirations and achievements of the families and the work done for them at the level of the United Nations.

## **CHAPTER II – FUNCTIONS**

### **Article 2**

In order to achieve its objective, the functions of the Organization shall be:

- a) To act as the promoting and coordinating Organization on international efforts among Governmental, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as other private sector, in increasing awareness of family issues and policies formulation;
- b) To promote, in cooperation with specialized agencies where necessary, policies for improvement, *inter alia*, of housing, health, sanitation, nutrition, education, recreation, work conditions, welfare systems, social protection and benefits, family relationships and environmental issues affecting families;
- c) To promote, in cooperation with specialized agencies where necessary, policies to prevent criminality, domestic violence, injury, chemical substance abuse, discrimination of vulnerable groups as well as persecution affecting families on grounds of politics, race, religion and gender;
- d) To promote, in cooperation with Members, experts and advisory groups, scientific studies concerning family structures, concepts and terminology;
- e) To promote exchange of information on family law, according to legal systems and policies adopted in different countries, to facilitate the analysis of family and individual family members rights and encouragement of legal reforms affecting families;
- f) To promote and/or sponsor conferences, seminars, international, regional, national and local meetings and training to discuss major family concerns;
- g) To promote cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of family issues;
- h) To promote and conduct research and studies in the field of families and their members;
- i) To promote respect and dignity for women within the family and society, supporting specific focused initiatives to enhance women's empowerment;

- j) To support the increased participation of men as partners and fathers in the family to share responsibilities in caring for, raising and educating children;
- k) To promote the reconciliation of a balance between work and family for both genders and by supporting freedom of choice for parents;
- l) To promote respect and dignity for children within the family and society, as well as their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development, supporting specific focused initiatives on children's behalf;
- m) To promote youth participation and involvement in social and public life, supporting initiatives that ensure their full potential;
- n) To promote social integration and stable societies, human rights, tolerance, equal opportunity, solidarity, social participation, respect and no discrimination of diversity through the families;
- o) To promote respect and dignity for the elderly within the family and society, supporting specific focused initiatives on behalf of the elderly;
- p) To promote respect and dignity for the disabled within the family and society, supporting specific focused initiatives on behalf of the disabled;
- q) To promote and strengthen the bonds of solidarity between families worldwide, encouraging the development of intra familial support systems approaching their common responsibilities for a better world of justice and peace;
- r) To study and report on, in cooperation with specialized agencies where necessary, administrative and social techniques affecting family structures, functions, roles, responsibilities and development;
- s) To contribute to poverty alleviation among families in the world, by supporting policies of sustainable development and partnership with public, private, voluntary sectors and the community;
- t) To assist Members, upon request, in strengthening family related policies and services;
- u) To assist Members in developing an informed public opinion among all people on family matters and, at the request of members, support the latter in this endeavor;
- v) To assist Members upon request with appropriate technical assistance and in emergencies, necessary aid in the field of families;
- w) To establish and maintain such administrative and technical services as may be required to perform research, information and data collection on family issues;
- x) To establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, professional groups and other organizations as well as other governmental and non-

governmental family administration in public or private authorities, as may be deemed appropriate;

- y) To represent the interests of families and to convey their needs and aspirations to the international community;
- z) To propose conventions, agreements and regulations, and make recommendations with respect to international family matters and to perform such duties as may be assigned thereby to the Organization which are consistent with its objective;
- aa) Generally to take all necessary action to attain the objective of the Organization.

### **CHAPTER III – MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Article 3**

Membership in the Organization shall be open to all Nations through:

- a) Non-Governmental Organizations whose aims contribute directly or indirectly to the objective and functions of the Organization;
- b) Governmental bodies, agencies and institutions which are responsible for families, women, children and social development fields, at National, Regional and Local levels;
- c) Universities, Academic and Research Centers interested in family matters;
- d) Parliamentarian groups;
- e) Economic and Social Councils;
- f) Business Community;
- g) Media Groups.

#### **Article 4**

The institutions mentioned on Article 3 may become Members of the Organization by accepting and signing this Constitution, fulfilling all membership requirements and regulations and accepting the membership fees.

#### **Article 5**

Applications for membership shall be approved by the Executive Board subject to the right to appeal to the General Assembly.

## **Article 6**

All Members who meet their financial obligations to the Organization have the same rights and powers.

## **Article 7**

If a Member fails to meet its financial obligations or in other exceptional circumstances the Executive Board may, on such conditions as it thinks proper:

- a) Suspend the voting privileges;
- b) Suspend the eligibility rights;
- c) Suspend the provisions of non-essential services;
- d) Suspend membership.

## **Article 8**

The General Assembly shall have the authority to restore the rights mentioned on Article 7.

## **Article 9**

Any Member may resign after a written notice of one year.

## **Article 10**

In order to contribute to the Organization's work, individual Families may affiliate to the World Family Organization, under a special category of Members called "Families of the World", which shall be a Consulting body, obeying the principles stated on Article 4.

## **Article 11**

Institutions which are considered by the International Community as qualified by their technical competence on family issues, may be admitted as "Consulting Member", upon approval of the Executive Board.

## **Article 12**

Applications for "Consulting Members" shall obey the principles stated on Article 4 excepting membership fees.

## **Article 13**

Consulting Members have no rights to vote and they are not eligible for elections.

## **Article 14**

The institution signatories, belonging to the twenty-seven nations represented at the World Family Congress held in Paris, 1947, when the International Union of Family Organizations was established, are considered "Founder Members".

## **Article 15**

Admissions, Resignation and Exclusion of Members shall be described on the Membership Rules of Procedures.

## **CHAPTER IV – ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES**

### **Article 16**

The work of the Organization shall be carried out by the following governing structures:

- a) The General Assembly;
- b) The Executive Board;
- c) The Regional Committees;
- d) The National Committees.

## **CHAPTER V – GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 17**

The General Assembly shall be composed of delegates representing Members.

### **Article 18**

Each Member shall be represented by not more than three delegates, one of whom shall be designated by the Member as chief delegate.

### **Article 19**

Advisers may accompany delegates.

### **Article 20**

The General Assembly shall meet in an Ordinary Session every year and in Extraordinary and Special Sessions as may be necessary. Extraordinary and Special Sessions shall be convened at the request of the Executive Board or of the majority of the Members.

### **Article 21**

The General Assembly at each session shall select the Region in which the next session shall be held. The Executive Board subsequently shall set the place and date.

## **Article 22**

The functions of the General Assembly shall be:

- a) To determine the policies of the Organization and its priority and its four years strategic framework of action;
- b) To review and approve reports and activities generated by all governing structures of the Organization;
- c) To instruct in regard to matters upon which action, study, research or report may be considered desirable;
- d) To establish or dissolve committees and commissions as may be considered necessary for the work of the Organization;
- e) To review and approve financial policies of the Organization and to review and approve the budget;
- f) To instruct and bring to the attention of Members and of International Organizations, Governmental or Non-Governmental Organizations, any matter with regard to family issues that the General Assembly may consider appropriate;
- g) To invite any organization, international or national, governmental or non-governmental, which has responsibilities related to those of the Organization, to appoint representatives to participate, without right of voting, in its meetings or in those of the committees, commissions and conferences convened under its authority, on conditions prescribed by the General Assembly;
- h) To consider recommendations bearing on family issues made by the Economic and Social Council, Department of Public Information and Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations of the United Nations, and to report to them on the steps taken by the Organization to give effect to such recommendations;
- i) To report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council in accordance with any agreement between the Organization and the United Nations;
- j) To establish institutions as it may consider desirable;
- k) To elect the Executive Board every four years, and elect vacancies every two years;
- l) To take any other appropriate action to further the objective of the Organization;
- m) To be the only competent authority for approving and amending this Constitution.

## **Article 23**

The General Assembly shall have authority to ratify conventions or agreements with respect to any matter within the competence of the Organization, signed by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 24**

The General Assembly shall have authority to make recommendations to Members with respect to any matter within the competence of the Organization.

#### **Article 25**

The General Assembly shall have authority to authorize the Executive Board to take the necessary steps to deal with issues requiring immediate interventions. In such a case all decisions taken by the Executive Board shall be submitted for ratification on the immediate next meeting of the General Assembly.

#### **Article 26**

The General Assembly shall adopt the General Assembly Rules of Procedures.

### **CHAPTER VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

#### **Article 27**

The Executive Board is the executive body of the Organization. It administers the Organization between sessions of the General Assembly.

#### **Article 28**

The Executive Board shall be composed of:

- a) A President;
- b) A Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs;
- c) A Vice President for Family Policy;
- d) A Vice President for Technical Activities;
- e) A Vice President for Financial Affairs;
- f) A Vice President for Communication and Public Relations Affairs;
- g) Fifteen Advisors.

#### **Article 29**

The Executive Board members shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years and may be re-elected.

#### **Article 30**

The Presidents of the Regional Committees shall be invited to the Executive Board Sessions as observers without rights of voting but with rights of voice, to bring to the attention of the Executive Board the work related to the Regions.

### **Article 31**

The Executive Board shall meet three times a year in ordinary sessions and in special sessions as may be necessary. Special sessions shall be convened by request of the President or the majority of Executive Board members.

### **Article 32**

The Executive Board shall determine the place and date of each session.

### **Article 33**

The Functions of the Executive Board shall be:

- a) To give effect to the decisions of the General Assembly;
- b) To act as the executive organ to the General Assembly;
- c) To perform any other functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly;
- d) To submit advice or proposals to the General Assembly;
- e) To prepare the Sessions of the General Assembly;
- f) To submit to the General Assembly for consideration and approval a Strategic Framework and budget covering a specific period;
- g) To study all questions within its competence;
- h) To take emergency measures within the functions and financial resources of the Organization and to deal with events requiring immediate action;
- i) To advise the General Assembly on questions referred to it by that body and on matters assigned to the Organization by conventions, agreements and regulations;
- j) To authorize the President to take the necessary steps to deal with issues requiring immediate and exceptional interventions. In such a case all decisions taken by the President shall be submitted for ratification on the immediate next Session of the Executive Board;
- k) To propose the establishment or dissolution of committees and commissions, if the situation arise.

### **Article 34**

The Executive Board shall exercise on behalf of the whole General Assembly the powers delegated to it.

## **CHAPTER VII – TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Article 35**

The Executive Board as the executive body of the Organization shall organize its members into delegated technical and administrative functions, in order to carry out its duties.

### **Article 36**

The functional structure of the Executive Board shall comprise the elected persons and such technical and administrative staff as the Organization may require. This functional structure of the Executive Board shall be named the Secretariat.

### **Article 37**

The President, subject to the authority of the General Assembly shall carry the political, technical and administrative authority for the Executive Board and its functions.

### **Article 38**

The President, subject to approval of two-thirds majority of the Executive Board members present and voting shall appoint up to two Assistants to carry out the duties of the President's Office.

### **Article 39**

The President, subject to approval of two-thirds majority of the Executive Board members present and voting shall confirm the appointment of persons, technically qualified to represent the Organization to the various international bodies, including the United Nations System.

### **Article 40**

The President, in accordance with the Vice-President for Legal and Administrative Affairs, subject to approval of two-thirds majority of the Executive Board members present and voting and in accordance with staff regulations, shall confirm the appointment of the staff as the Organization may require.

### **Article 41**

The President shall preside the Sessions of the General Assembly, Executive Board, and Conferences convened by the Organization. The President may delegate these functions to the Vice-Presidents.

### **Article 42**

The Vice-President for Legal and Administrative Affairs shall be responsible for the President's duties in case of the President's unavailability.

### **Article 43**

The Vice-President for Legal and Administrative Affairs shall be responsible for all matters concerning the legal and administrative aspects of the Organization, according to the legal and administrative regulations. He prepares and approves administrative programs assisted by his Advisors, and supervises the work done by the Legal and Administrative Division.

### **Article 44**

The Vice-President for Financial Affairs shall be responsible for all matters concerning the financial aspects of the Organization, according to the financial regulations. He prepares and approves financial programs and reports assisted by his Advisors, and supervises the work done by the Financial Division.

### **Article 45**

The Vice-President for Communication & Public Relations Affairs shall be responsible for all matters concerning to the communication and public relations aspects of the Organization, according to communication and public relations regulations. He prepares and approves communication and public relations programs, reports and projects assisted by his Advisors, and supervises the work done by the Communication & Public Relations Division.

### **Article 46**

The Vice-President for Technical Activities shall be responsible for all matters concerning the technical aspects of the Organization according to the technical activities' regulations. He prepares and approves technical programs, reports and projects assisted by his Advisors, and establishes direct relations between the Technical Commissions and the World Family Organization Office for Project Services.

### **Article 47**

The Vice-President for Family Policy Coordination shall be responsible for the research development and implementation of family policies recognized and adopted by the Organization, in cooperation with countries and members. He prepares and approves policies and studies development and implementation assisted by his Advisors, and establishes direct relations between the Organization and the Academia.

### **Article 48**

The Advisors shall assist and advise the President, Vice-Presidents and the Presidents of the Regions on all matters concerning the work of the Organization, according to the Advisors Regulations.

### **Article 49**

The Executive Board shall organize the Committees and Commissions as the General Assembly may direct, or on its own initiative, or on the proposal of the President, subject to ratification of

the superior bodies, considered desirable to serve any purpose within the competence of the Organization.

#### **Article 50**

The Executive Board may provide for the creation of or the participation by the Organization in joint or mixed Committees and Commissions with other organizations and for the representation of the Organization in Committees and Commissions established by such organizations.

#### **Article 51**

The Executive Board, from time to time and at least annually, shall review the necessity for continuing each Committee and Commission, recommending the continuity or not to the General Assembly.

#### **Article 52**

In the performance of their duties, the Executive Board members and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect adversely on their position. Each Member of the Organization undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the Executive Board members and staff and does not to seek to influence them.

#### **Article 53**

The Executive Board shall adopt the Executive Board Rules of Procedures.

### **CHAPTER VIII – REGIONAL STRUCTURES**

#### **Article 54**

The General Assembly shall define the geographical areas in which it is desirable to have a regional structure.

#### **Article 55**

The General Assembly may, with the participation of a majority of the Members situated within each area so defined, decide to have a regional structure to meet the needs of such area. There shall not be more than one regional structure in each defined area.

#### **Article 56**

The regional structure shall be an integral part of the Organization, in accordance with this Constitution and in accordance with the Regional Committees Regulations.

#### **Article 57**

Each regional structure shall consist of a Regional Committee and a Regional Office.

### **Article 58**

Regional Committees shall be composed of representatives of the Members in the region concerned, according to the Regional Committees Regulations.

### **Article 59**

The President of the Regional Committee shall be elected among and by the members of the Organizations within the Region every four years.

### **Article 60**

The voting privileges can be exercised by all Members who meet their financial obligations to the Organization. In case of absence any member may give a proxy to another Member attending the Session, provided both Members have fulfilled all financial obligations. However, a Member, beside his vote, may hold only two proxies for votes, and follow the Regional Committees Regulations.

### **Article 61**

The Executive Board of the Organization shall ratify the election of the Regional Committees Presidents.

### **Article 62**

The President of the Regional Committee shall act as the Regional Representative on the Executive Board and shall organize the work of the Organization in its respective Regions according to the policies established by the General Assembly.

### **Article 63**

Regional Committees shall meet as often as necessary and shall determine the place and date of each Session.

### **Article 64**

The functions of the Regional Committee shall be:

- a) To promote and implement the objective and functions of the Organization in the Region;
- b) To formulate policies governing matters of an exclusively regional character;
- c) To act on behalf of the Members as coordinating body for common activities and statements;
- d) To monitor regional development, report on them to the Organization, and identify new fields of action and include them in the general program of work of the Organization;

- e) To suggest the calling of conferences and such additional work or research in family matters, as in the opinion of the regional members would promote the objective of the Organization within the Region;
- f) To tender advice, through the President, to the Organization on international family matters which has wider than regional significance;
- g) To cooperate with the respective regional committees of the United Nations and with those of other specialized agencies and with other regional international organizations having interests in common with the Organization;
- h) To supervise the activities of the Regional Office;
- i) Such other functions as may be delegated to the Regional Committee by the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

#### **Article 65**

Subject to the authority of the Executive Board of the Organization, the Regional Office shall be the administrative organ of the Regional Committee. It shall, in addition, carry out within the region the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Board of the Organization.

#### **Article 66**

The head of the Regional Office shall be the Regional Director whose appointment will be confirmed by the Executive Board of the Organization in agreement with the Regional Committee.

#### **Article 67**

The staff of the Regional Office shall be appointed in a manner to be determined by agreement between the Executive Board, Regional Committee and Regional Director.

#### **Article 68**

Regional Committees shall adopt the Regional Committees Regulations.

### **CHAPTER IX – NATIONAL STRUCTURES**

#### **Article 69**

Members of each country shall be organized in National Committees and National Offices, to coordinate their activities within the country.

#### **Article 70**

National Committees shall be an integral part of the Organization, in accordance with this Constitution, and in accordance with the National Committees Regulations. The establishment of

National Committees shall be approved by the Executive Board and ratified by the General Assembly.

#### **Article 71**

The President of the National Committee shall be elected among and by the Members of each country. The voting privileges can be exercised by all Members who meet their financial obligations to the Organization. In case of absence any member may give a proxy to another Member attending the Session, provided both Members have fulfilled all financial obligations. However, a Member, beside his vote, may hold only two proxies for votes, and follow the National Committees Regulations.

#### **Article 72**

The Executive Board of the Organization shall ratify the election of the National Committees Presidents.

#### **Article 73**

The functions of the National Committee shall be:

- a) To promote and implement the objective and functions of the Organization in the country;
- b) To formulate policies governing matters of an exclusively national character;
- c) To act on behalf of the Members as coordinating body for common activities and statements;
- d) To suggest the calling of conferences and such additional work or research in family matters, as in the opinion of the National Members would promote the objective of the Organization within the country;
- e) To supervise the activities of the National Office;
- f) Such other functions as may be delegated to the National Committee by the General Assembly and Executive Board.

#### **Article 74**

Subject to the authority of the Executive Board of the Organization, the National Office shall be the administrative organ of the National Committee. It shall, in addition, carry out within the country the decisions of the Executive Board of the Organization.

#### **Article 75**

The head of the National Office shall be the National Director appointed by the National Committee in accordance with National laws and legal regulations and confirmed by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 76**

The staff of the National Office shall be appointed by the National Director in accordance with National laws and legal regulations and confirmed by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 77**

National Committees shall adopt the National Committees Regulations.

### **CHAPTER X – COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

#### **Article 78**

The Organization shall have permanent and temporary Committees and Commissions, considered desirable to serve any purpose within the competence of the Organization.

#### **Article 79**

The Committees and Commissions shall act as advisory bodies to the Organization. Specific programs, projects and studies from specific Committees and Commissions shall be approved by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 80**

When establishing Committees and Commissions, the Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 81**

The Committees and Commissions shall follow specific established Rules of Procedures.

### **CHAPTER XI – CONFERENCES**

#### **Article 82**

The General Assembly may convene World Family Conferences and Summits every year to consider any theme or issue within the competence of the Organization.

#### **Article 83**

The theme or issue of the World Family Conference mentioned on article 82 shall be proposed by the General Assembly, Executive Board, Committees and Commissions as well as by the Regional and National Committees.

#### **Article 84**

The Executive Board may provide technical and administrative infrastructures to support the World Family Conferences and Summits.

#### **Article 85**

The Executive Board may convene other local, general, technical or other special Conferences and Summits to consider any matter within the competence of the Organization.

#### **Article 86**

The Executive Board may provide for the representation of the Organization at any Conferences and Summits in which the Executive Board considers that the Organization has an interest.

### **CHAPTER XII – VOTING**

#### **Article 87**

Each Member shall have one vote in the General Assembly.

#### **Article 88**

The voting privileges can be exercised by all Members who meet their financial obligations to the Organization. In case of absence any member may give a proxy to another Member attending the Session, provided both Members have fulfilled all financial obligations. However, a Member, beside his vote, may hold only two proxies for the votes in the General Assembly.

#### **Article 89**

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be made by a majority of the Members present and voting in person or by proxy. A quorum of the General Assembly is achieved if at least half of the Members are present or represented. The quorum is ascertained at the beginning of the session.

#### **Article 90**

For the purpose of the present Constitution the expression “Members present and voting” means those who are present and vote for or against. Members who are absent or abstain do not count.

#### **Article 91**

Elections shall be held by secret ballot. In the absence of any objection, the General Assembly may decide to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or list of candidates.

#### **Article 92**

Decisions of the General Assembly, other than elections, shall be taken by a show of hands or by a show of red and green cards.

### **Article 93**

Decisions of the Executive Board shall be made by a majority of the Executive Board members present and voting. A quorum of the Executive Board is achieved if at least half of the Members are present. The quorum is ascertained at the beginning of the session. Voting through proxy is not allowed in the Executive Board Sessions.

### **Article 94**

The voting privileges can be exercised by all Members of the Executive Board who meet their financial obligations to the Organization.

### **Article 95**

Decisions of the Executive Board shall be made by a show of hands or by a show of red and green cards.

## **CHAPTER XIII – FINANCING AND BUDGET**

### **Article 96**

The Financial Resources of the Organization shall be:

- a) Membership Fees;
- b) Subscriptions for Publications;
- c) Payment for Services;
- d) Donations;
- e) Legacies;
- f) Special Funds.

### **Article 97**

The Membership Fees shall be defined by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Executive Board.

### **Article 98**

The Executive Board shall define fees for publications subscriptions and services.

### **Article 99**

The Executive Board, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, may accept and administer donations and legacies made to the Organization, provided that the conditions attached to such gifts are acceptable to the General Assembly and are consistent with the objective and policies of the Organization.

#### **Article 100**

A special fund shall be established, to be used at the discretion of the Executive Board, with top priority to meet emergencies and unforeseen contingencies.

#### **Article 101**

As it may be necessary, the General Assembly shall decide about the creation of other funds, upon proposal of the Executive Board.

#### **Article 102**

Every four years, the General Assembly shall approve a Financial Plan and Budget in consonance with the Organization's Strategic Framework, recommended by the Executive Board.

#### **Article 103**

Annually, the Vice-President for Financial Affairs shall prepare and submit to the Executive Board a performance report on the budget and the accountancy. The Executive Board shall approve such report and accountancy and recommend it to the General Assembly for approval.

#### **Article 104**

Annually the performance report on the budget, the accountancy and the financial management of the Organization shall be audited by the internal auditors. A written statement shall be presented by the internal auditors to the Executive Board.

#### **Article 105**

Every four years a Consolidated four-year Accountancy and Financial Performance Report shall be presented to the General Assembly by the Executive Board. This Consolidated four-year Report and Accountancy shall be audited by one External Independent Auditor, holding a title of General Auditor or equivalent.

#### **Article 106**

The financial, budgetary and auditing affairs of the Organization shall be adopted and governed by the Financial Regulations.

### **CHAPTER XIV – REPORTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS AND FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE ORGANIZATION**

#### **Article 107**

Each Member, except Consulting Members and WFO Family Members, shall submit a written report every two years to the Organization on the action taken and progress achieved in improving the level of welfare and quality of life of families.

### **Article 108**

Each Member shall submit a written report every two years on the action taken based on recommendations made by the Organization and regarding conventions, agreements and regulations.

### **Article 109**

Members and/or National Committees shall communicate promptly to the Organization important laws, regulations, official reports and statistics pertaining to family issues which have been published in the country concerned.

### **Article 110**

Upon the request of the Executive Board, each Member shall transmit additional information regarding family issues as may be possible.

### **Article 111**

Each functional structure of the Organization shall submit to the Executive Board, annually and when requested, a written report on the actions taken and progress achieved in implementing recommendations, programs and projects approved by the General Assembly.

### **Article 112**

The Executive Board shall discuss and compile the submitted reports and recommend them to the General Assembly every two years or when requested.

## **CHAPTER XV – RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Article 113**

The Organization shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations as one of the non-governmental organizations referred to in Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. The agreement or agreements bringing the Organization into relationship with the United Nations shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board and ad referendum to the next General Assembly.

### **Article 114**

The Organization shall establish effective relations and co-operate closely with such other inter-governmental and governmental organizations as may be desirable. Any formal agreement entered into with such organizations shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board and ad referendum to the next General Assembly.

### **Article 115**

The Organization shall on matters within its competence establish effective relations and co-operate closely with such other international or national non-governmental organizations. Any formal agreement entered into with such organizations shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board and ad referendum to the next General Assembly.

### **Article 116**

Subject to approval by a majority vote of the General Assembly, the Organization may take over from any other international organization or agency whose purpose and activities lie within the field of competence of the Organization, such functions, resources and obligations as may be conferred upon the Organization by international agreement or by mutually acceptable arrangements entered into between the competent authorities of the respective organizations.

## **CHAPTER XVI – LEGAL CAPACITY, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

### **Article 117**

The Organization should enjoy in the country of each Member with an active and functioning National Committee, such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfillment of its objective and for the exercise of its functions.

### **Article 118**

The Organization should enjoy in the country of each Member with an active and functioning National Committee, such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the fulfillment of its objective and for the exercise of its functions.

### **Article 119**

Persons appointed to serve on the Executive Board and technical and administrative personnel of the Organization should similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.

### **Article 120**

Such legal capacity, privileges and immunities should be defined in a separate agreement to be prepared by the Organization in consultation with the Governmental Members and to be concluded with the respective countries' authorities.

## **CHAPTER XVII – HEADQUARTERS**

### **Article 121**

The location of the Headquarters of the Organization shall be fixed in Paris. It may be transferred elsewhere if the circumstances require it.

## **Article 122**

The decision to transfer the location of the Headquarters shall be taken by a majority vote of the General Assembly. If the circumstances require, the Executive Board can take appropriate actions to consult the General Assembly by any other means, to get the approval for action ad referendum to the next meeting of the General Assembly.

## **Article 123**

The functional structures of the Executive Board and the subsidiary structures of the Organization may be located elsewhere than the Headquarters.

## **CHAPTER XVIII – DISSOLUTION**

### **Article 124**

The dissolution of the Organization can be brought about by decision of a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

### **Article 125**

Before the decision of the General Assembly, the Executive Board shall promote wide and exhaustively discussions and negotiations among Members and its various National and Regional structures.

### **Article 126**

In the case of dissolution all the Organization's assets shall be assigned by the General Assembly, to one or several organizations, having the same objective and functions of the Organization and located where the Organization has at least one Member.

### **Article 127**

In the case of dissolution, a Special Committee shall be nominated by the General Assembly to study and prepare a proposal for the distribution of the assets.

## **CHAPTER XIX – AMENDMENTS**

### **Article 128**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed and prepared by the Executive Board, or by one-third of the General Assembly Members.

### **Article 129**

A Special Session of the General Assembly shall be convoked with a three-month notice, to discuss and approve the amendments proposed to this Constitution.

### **Article 130**

Amendments shall come into force when adopted by a majority vote of the General Assembly and signed by two-thirds of Members.

## **CHAPTER XX – INTERPRETATION**

### **Article 131**

The English text of this Constitution shall be regarded as the original text, and translations into the other languages shall be authentic if reflecting the original text in English.

### **Article 132**

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation of the application of this Constitution which is not settled by negotiation or by the General Assembly shall be referred to the International Arbitration Court unless the parties concerned agree on another mode of settlement.

## **CHAPTER XXI – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

### **Article 133**

The President and the Vice-President for Legal and Administrative Affairs may appear before a Court on behalf of the Organization in connection with any proceedings arising out of any request. They shall make arrangements for the presentation of the case before a Court, including arrangements for the argument of different views on questions.

## **CHAPTER XXII – ENTRY-INTO-FORCE**

### **Article 134**

This Constitution shall come into force when approved by majority of the General Assembly and a Term of Acceptance signed by two-thirds of the Members.

### **Article 135**

According to Article 4, this Constitution shall remain open to all Members for acceptance and signature.

## **Article 136**

This Constitution shall replace the Constitution of the International Union of Family Organizations signed in the General Assembly held in Geneva – Switzerland, by 20 Nations on 3 July 1948, amended by the General Assembly held in New Delhi – India, on 6 December 1985, amended by the General Assembly held in Cairo – Egypt, on 19-20 September 1993, amended by the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly held in Vienna – Austria, on 25-26 November, 1998, and amended by the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly held at the Dead Sea – Jordan, on 08 December 2006.

## **Article 137**

This Constitution, when it has been approved and signed by two-thirds of Members, will be registered with the French Government and with all other Governments where the World Family Organization establishes formal National and Regional Offices.

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The whole text of this Constitution was voted on and approved by more than two-thirds majority of Members present or represented in the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Special Session, especially convoked for this purpose, held at the Dead Sea – Jordan on 08 December 2006, being therefore fully adopted according to the Minutes of the Session.

IN Faith whereof the undersigned representatives, having been duly authorized for the purpose, sign this Constitution.



**WORLD FAMILY ORGANIZATION**