

STATUTES

APPROVED BY THE WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON MAY 21ST, 2019

(ENGLISH VERSION)



WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

HEADING I CONSTITUTION – DURATION – OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE I – CONSTITUTION AND HEADQUARTERS

1. An association has been established, with legal status, called the "World Farmers' Organisation" (other than "Organizzazione Mondiale degli Agricoltori" or "Organisation Mondiale des Agriculteurs" or "Organización Mundial de Agricultores"), hereafter WFO or the Association, which is a representative association bringing together organisations of agricultural producers (and their cooperatives) from all agricultural sectors and from any country in the world.
2. The Association is free, impartial, independent and not-for-profit.
3. The Association's headquarters are in Rome. Secondary offices, branches and delegations can be established by decision from the Board, either in Italy or abroad.

ARTICLE II – DURATION

1. The duration of the Association is unlimited, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly. Should the association be dissolved for any reason, the provisions contained within Article XIX of these Statutes will apply.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIFS ET ACTIVITÉS

1. The Association's mission is to bring together national agricultural producer organisations and national cooperative organisations of agricultural producers, to create policies and advocate on their behalf to improve the economic and social conditions of their producers, families and communities, taking into consideration environmental and consumer health protection.
2. In particular, the Association pursues the following objectives:
 - i. improve farmers' livelihoods and the viability of rural communities around the world;
 - ii. contribute to global food security by facilitating cooperation between the members and the affiliates;
 - iii. facilitate the organisation of agricultural producers and enable them to improve their position in the food supply chain;
 - iv. promote and protect other agriculture-related activities, such as forestry and aquaculture, and recognize their role;
 - v. promote and enable farmers-centred agricultural research, innovation and education;
 - vi. encourage farmers' involvement in sustainable rural development, the environment and other challenges, such as climate change and the renewal of generations;
 - vii. improve farmers' access to natural resources and address resources' scarcity;

- food losses and waste and address economical and environmental effectiveness and efficiency, bioeconomy, and better use of agrowaste and residues;
- viii. encourage the farmers' involvement in food security, environmental, economic and social sustainability, nutrition and trade.
3. In order to achieve these objectives, the Association shall:
- i. represent its members in international non- or inter-governmental fora relevant to world farmers;
 - ii. act as a catalyst for the voices of world farmers in the global agenda developing strategic agricultural farmers-driven policies;
 - iii. promote and advocate on behalf of world farmers by developing strategic agricultural policies and other related policies in any relevant area;
 - iv. advocate in order to ensure that international and regional policies include the farmers' perspective on relevant issues;
 - v. enable the exchange of know-how among farmers throughout the world, fostering the dissemination of best practices;
 - vi. promote collaboration between its members and affiliates and with international organisations, multilateral financial instruments, agriculture development agencies, national governments, institutions and private/public entities which are relevant to the topics of interest for the Association;
 - vii. carry out and/or promote research, in-depth examination, studies and analyses as well as promote and/or organise conferences, meetings and seminars on topics and issues which are of interest to the Association;
 - viii. establish and develop contacts, relationships and partnerships, both at national and international level, with governments, institutions, entities and, in general, with public and private bodies from Italy or abroad, which are relevant to the topics and issues that are of interest to the Association;
 - ix. use contributions, funds or other allocations, both private and public, according to the Board's policy (provided that not against possible different provisions of the Rules of Procedure) and/or subject to the rules of procedure (hereinafter the "WFO Rules of Procedure"), which, as provided for under Article XXII, regulate the procedural matters pertaining to the functioning of the Association;
 - x. conclude agreements, protocols and conventions with other entities and third parties in general;
 - xi. possess, own, manage and rent buildings and other equipment, both movable and immovable;
 - xii. establish other organisations and/or participate as a member in other organisations, whose objectives are compatible with the Association's own objectives, and importantly with its mission;
 - xiii. raise funds to use for the achievement of its institutional objectives;
 - xiv. carry out any other activity which is related and/or similar to those listed above, as well as carry out all acts and conclude all contractual operations relating to property, equipment, funds and industrial aspects, which are necessary and/or

- useful for achieving the Association's aims and which are directly or indirectly linked to these, in accordance with the law;
- xv. study, analyze and develop trade policies that enhances farm incomes and encourages efficient resource use.

HEADING II MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

1. Organisations or unions of organisations, which are independent, national, general in scope and are recognised by the WFO as representing agricultural producers and/or agricultural cooperatives in a specific country (which is member or observer of the UN), are eligible for membership. It is possible for more than one organisation from one single country to become a member, provided that in this last case the organisation coming from a country where WFO already has membership and requesting to be member also has to exist and operate from at least five years; if not, it is left to the evaluation and decision of the Board.
2. Voting shall be on the basis of one vote per member.
3. Upon admission, every member is assigned to one of the following constituencies according to the location of their headquarters: Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe and Oceania, as described in the WFO Rules of Procedure.
4. Each constituency shall decide on nominating a common representative to the Board.
5. The Board, with a specific resolution, can confer the title and the status of "Affiliates" to the following subjects, which request to affiliate to the WFO in order to support the activities of the latter: transnational organisations from one or more country representing farmers' organisations and/or agricultural cooperatives, global organisations representing one agricultural sector, national commodity groups representing farmers, organisations representing women farmers or young farmers regardless the geographical area in which they operate. Affiliates cannot become members.
6. Affiliates can not present candidates for positions within the Association and can not vote in the General Assembly.
7. The Board can also confer or recognize the title of WFO's Supporter to companies or other public and private bodies or physical persons that intend to support WFO and its advocacy according to the terms specifically agreed with the Board and/or in any way to adhere or share or contribute to spread the same advocacy.

ARTICLE V – ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Application for membership is by written request from the applicant to the Board through the Association's headquarters.

2. The request must include:
 - a) indication of the name and the headquarters;
 - b) the name of the legal representative;
 - c) a declaration accepting the statutory norms of the Association (agreement to comply with Statutes).
3. The following documents must be attached to the request:
 - a) a complying copy of the Statutes;
 - b) a copy of the minutes from the meeting where the competent body approved the requested membership of the WFO.
4. Where necessary, the Board has the power to ask the applicant for further information and documents to demonstrate the legitimacy of the request and/or the possession of proof that the requirements can be met.
5. Approval of the request for membership shall be unanimous from those present at the Board meeting, after checking the general suitability of the applicant as well as ensuring that there are no reasons to prevent membership. In case of non-unanimity of the Board, the General Assembly shall decide on the request.
6. The admission of affiliates uses, as duly adapted, the same procedure provided for member admission in this article.
7. The admission of members and of affiliates implies full acceptance of the spirit and the letter of the Association's statutory norms as well as any regulations it may have. This includes the obligation to abide by all the Association's rules and conditions and to observe the decisions made by the Association's bodies.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION FEES

1. Membership fees for any financial year shall be paid in advance in one instalment, not later than by March 1st of every year. Members are obliged to pay the membership fee. The amount will be determined by the General Assembly, according to the criteria previously approved and recommended by the Board, by October of the previous year.
2. By March 1st of every year, Affiliates are obliged to pay an affiliation fee, in order to support WFO's activities. The amount will be determined by the General Assembly, according to the criteria previously approved and recommended by the Board, by October of the previous year and will be less than the amount required for the membership fee.
3. When determining the amount to be paid, in accordance with the provisions included in the WFO Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly may provide special and differential treatment for members from developing countries, in line with the development status (according to the World Bank Country and Lending Groups' relevant list), and for members from countries that, for population and/or extension, are under specific thresholds to be determined by the Board. The Board may allow a delay of the fees payment in case of a proven member finan-

cial difficulties. Further, to encourage membership of farmers' organizations from Least Developed Countries (LDCs list as approved by the United Nations – Committee for Development Policy), the General Assembly, on a previous proposal of the Board, may establish a nominal fee for these members.

4. New members and affiliates are obliged to pay their first fee, which shall be paid - regardless of the date on which they are admitted - for the entire year, no more than 20 days after being informed that their application for membership or affiliation has been approved by the Board.
5. The sums of money paid as membership or affiliation fees are not reimbursable.

ARTICLE VII – TERMINATION OF MEMBER OR AFFILIATE STATUS

1. A member will cease to be a part of the Association for the following reasons:
 - i. legal dissolution and being put into liquidation;
 - ii. withdrawal by means of written communication to the Board. The withdrawal takes legal effect from the end of the year in which notice of the withdrawal is received on the condition that it is formalised at least three months prior to the end of the year; otherwise it will be effective from the end of the following year.
 - iii. end of membership, established by a General Assembly decision, due to the member no longer fulfilling the requirements for admission to the WFO;
 - iv. expulsion. This may be approved by the General Assembly, for the following reasons:
 - a) violation of the statutory norms or decisions of the Association's bodies;
 - b) failure to pay membership fees for two consecutive financial years prior to the year in which the General Assembly deciding upon such member's expulsion is held;
 - c) acting in a manner detrimental to the moral and material interests of the Association;
 - d) acting in a manner which runs counter to the objectives of the Association or which results in it no longer being suitable for the member to remain in the Association.
2. Members who have withdrawn or been excluded from the Association, those who have had their membership ended or have ceased to be a member, may not request the repayment of their membership fees and may not lay any claim to the Association's assets.
3. The provisions included in this article are also valid for the termination of affiliate status.
4. The WFO Rules of Procedure provides the expulsion procedure and terms.

HEADING III THE ASSOCIATION'S BODIES

ARTICLE VIII – BODIES

1. The Association's bodies are:
 - The General Assembly;
 - The Board;
 - The President;
 - The Board of Auditors.

ARTICLE IX - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the WFO and makes decisions on all the Association's agricultural policy lines, questions and orientations.
2. The General Assembly is composed of all members who are up-to-date with their fees, as represented by their legal representatives who have been designated by the aforementioned members in accordance with their own statutes or as represented by proxies designated in writing by such legal representatives.
3. Each member, who is up-to-date with its fees, has the right to one vote within the General Assembly.
4. Any member who has failed, following a demand for payment sent by the Association, to pay within the term provided for under Article VI, 1st paragraph those membership fees due when the General Assembly takes place - regardless of whether they pertain to the current year or previous years - shall not be entitled to vote in such General Assembly.
5. The Assembly, whether it be an ordinary or an extraordinary meeting, is convened by the President or, should he/she be absent or unable to attend, by the Vice-President by inviting all members at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. In extraordinary or emergency situations, this may be reduced to 10 days.
6. The invitation to the meeting, containing the agenda for the General Assembly, should be sent to members by registered letter, fax, email or any other method which can provide confirmation of receipt.
7. The General Assembly shall annually meet in a members' country, subject to the location being specifically indicated within the invitation to the meeting and having been approved by the previous year's ordinary General Assembly. In case of other General Assembly in the same year, the location of the meeting (in a members' country) shall be decided by the Board and specifically indicated within the invitation to the meeting.
8. The General Assembly shall be annually convened at least once a year to approve the accounts and confirm the location of the next ordinary meeting, both upon recommendation of the Board. The General Assembly shall meet also in other cases, at any time when it is deemed necessary or if a request is put forward by at least one tenth of the members.

9. Decisions made at the General Assembly shall be passed by a majority of votes on the condition that at least half of the members who are entitled to vote under this Article are present at the meeting. When no decision is taken in first instance, the second vote on this decision shall be validly passed by the majority of the members present, regardless of their number.
10. For decisions on the budget and other financial matters, the presence of at least half of the members who are entitled to vote under this Article and the positive vote of at least three quarters of those members is required.
11. However, in order to make decisions on possible amendments to the Statutes, the presence of two-thirds of the members who are entitled to vote under this Article and a positive vote from the majority of those members is required.
12. A positive vote from at least three-quarters of the members is required for decisions, relating to dissolution of the Association, the nomination of liquidators and the devolution of assets, in accordance with Article XIX.
13. Members may be represented by other members in the General Assembly using a written proxy in which they confer upon such other member - who must, in turn, be represented by its legal representative or a proxy designated pursuant to the 2nd paragraph of this Article - the power to represent and vote on their behalf at such General Assembly. The Chair of the General Assembly will announce these proxies at the start of each General Assembly.
14. The General Assembly may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of the equal treatment of members are respected and that all members are guaranteed the opportunity to speak.
15. In such a situation, the President shall verify the identity and legitimacy of the participants, adjust the functioning of the meeting and note and announce the results of the voting.
16. The decisions made by the General Assembly in accordance with these Statutes are binding for all members; both those who voted in favour and those who voted against.
17. Motions and amendments shall be submitted at General Assemblies within the time limits provided for under the WFO Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Ordinary Assembly:
 - a) establishes general orientations and guidelines for the Association's activity, initiates and approves WFO standing policy, according to the Rules of Procedure;
 - b) creates and approves the Association's strategic plan;
 - c) approves the annual budgets prepared by the Board;
 - d) approves the Association's Rules of Procedure;
 - e) determines the level of membership and affiliation fees;
 - f) determines the level of possible entry fees requested from members and affiliates;

- g) makes decisions relating to the termination and the cessation of the membership of members and affiliates;
 - h) makes decisions relating to the election of the Board's members, the President and the Vice-President and to the revocation of them, the procedure for which shall be described exactly in the WFO Rules of Procedure;
 - i) makes decisions relating to the election of the Auditors, stating its composition, and to the revocation of them for a serious issue and/or for just cause, the procedure for which shall be described exactly in the WFO Rules of Procedure;
 - j) may set up specific committees for women farmers and young farmers to tackle those topics which are of particular interest to them within the framework of the objectives of the WFO;
 - k) where judged appropriate, may set up additional regional committees and/or committees relating to specific topics which are of interest to the agricultural sector;
 - l) may, upon request from the constituencies as mentioned in article 4, make decisions on particular intervention programmes or initiatives relating to their specific issues;
 - m) makes decisions on other proposals which members, according to the rules of procedure, and/or the Board submits for its consideration;
 - n) approves new members, when the Board has not decided unanimously.
2. The Extraordinary Assembly:
- a) makes amendments relating to the Statutes;
 - b) makes decisions relating to the dissolution and the liquidation of the Association, as well as to the disbursement of assets.

ARTICLE XI – THE BOARD

1. The Board is appointed by the General Assembly and is made up of one President, the Vice President and five members.
2. The Vice President and the other five members come from and represent each of the constituencies mentioned in article 4 of these Statutes, who are proposed by their own constituencies.
3. The five Board members are chosen from among the legal representatives of the member organisations within each constituency and up-to-date with their fees or from among the individuals designated by them.
4. The Board has a two-year term and its members' mandates may only be renewed once.
5. The election of three positions (including the Vice President) on the Board which will have been selected pursuant to the mechanism provided for under the WFO Rules of Procedure, will take place, together with that of the President and Vice President, at a General Assembly (First Election). The Board Members and the President and Vice President thus elected will remain in office for the two years term provided for under the 4th paragraph of this Article.

6. The election of three remaining positions on the Board (Second Election) will take place at the General Assembly following the First Election. The Board Members thus elected will also remain in office for the two years term provided for under the 4th paragraph of this Article.
7. Subsequently, the General Assembly following the Second Election will proceed with a new First Election and the following one with the Second Election and at the same way year per year, so that the elections of the Board Members shall take place on a staggered basis, with three Members being elected in one year and three Members in the other year.
8. If one or more positions on the Board become vacant, the remaining members may co-opt a new Board member to fill the position provided that he/she is from the same constituency as the previous Board member. The co-opted member of the Board then remains in the position until the next General Assembly meeting where the nomination must either be ratified, or another nomination must be made by the new Board member's constituency. The new Board member thus ratified or nominated by the General Assembly, then remains in the position until the end of the mandate of the Board member they replaced.
9. A Board meeting is convened by the President or, should he/she be absent or unable to attend, by the Vice-President by inviting all Board members at least 10 days before the date of the Board meeting. In extraordinary or emergency situations, this may be reduced to 5 days.
10. The invitation to the meeting, containing the agenda for the Board meeting, should be sent to the Board members by any method (including e-mail) which can provide confirmation of receipt.
11. The Board shall normally meet at the WFO headquarters. However, it may also meet in other locations inside or outside Italy, subject to this being specifically indicated in the invitation to the meeting.
12. The Board shall meet at least four times a year as well as whenever there is a request for a meeting received by the President from at least three of its members.
13. Board meetings are considered to be valid if the majority of Board members are present. Decisions must be approved by the majority of the Board members present at the meeting. If the number of votes for and against is tied, the President has the deciding vote.
14. Board meetings may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of equal treatment are respected.
15. In such a situation, the President shall verify the identity and legitimacy of the participants, adjust the functioning of the meeting and note and announce the results of the voting.
16. Members of the Board cannot be represented by a proxy.

ARTICLE XII – DUTIES OF THE BOARD

1. The Board shall:
 - a) formulate proposals to submit to the General Assembly and execute the decisions it adopts;
 - b) make decisions relating to the admission of members and affiliates - referred to in article V;
 - c) prepare the annual final and provisional budgets to submit to the approval of the General Assembly;
 - d) make decisions relating to accepting contributions, donations or bequests as well as acquisitions and alienations of moveable or immovable property,
 - e) assure the most secure and convenient use of WFO assets;
 - f) make decisions relating to possible cooperation agreements between the WFO and other bodies national and international, public and private;
 - g) generally take any step necessary for the smooth functioning of the WFO which the General Assembly is not required to take either by law or according to the Statutes;
 - h) appoint and/or remove the Secretary General, through a proposal of any member of the Board;
 - i) examine proposals for the location of the next annual General Assembly and present recommendations to the General Assembly, including a recommendation for an alternative;
 - j) decide the location of possible other General Assemblies, different from the annual one;
 - k) prepare and submit to the General Assembly policy documents in accordance with the procedure set forth in WFO Rules of Procedure;
 - l) may grant the necessary or useful power of attorney to the Secretary General.
2. The Board also holds any and every other ordinary and extraordinary administrative power which is not expressly reserved for or attributed to the General Assembly.
3. Upon receipt of express permission from the Board, any Board member may represent WFO in an international context in line with the objectives (indicated in article III of these Statutes), the strategic plan and the orientations and positions approved by the General Assembly.
4. The Board is responsible for nominating the Treasurer from among its members.
5. The Board may confer its tasks to the President and/or to the Vice-President and/or one or more Board members, thereby conferring upon them the authority of management and representation in relation thereto.
6. The Board may also mandate external subjects who, within the scope of those specific powers conferred upon them, may represent WFO in dealings with third parties, carrying out any act or series of acts necessary for the performance of the duties assigned to them.

ARTICLE XIII – THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. The President should normally be a farmer who is either the legal representative of a WFO member organization which is up-to-date with its fees or an individual designated by this latter organization. In the case that the elected President is not a farmer, the Vice President must be a farmer who is either the legal representative of a WFO member organization which is up-to-date with its fees or an individual designated by this latter organization.
2. They are elected by the General Assembly and are members of the Board, of which they are respectively the President and the Vice-President, exercising the powers provided for under Article XII.
3. With the exception provided in the following paragraph 4, the President and the Vice-President may not come from the same constituency as the person that respectively has, at the date of the General Assembly, the role of President or Vice President nor from the same constituency.
4. The President and the Vice-President have a two-year term. The President and the Vice-President's elective and full mandate may only be renewed once.
5. The President is the legal representative of the WFO in dealings with third parties and in court. His/her signature is the signature of the Association. The President has the power to guide the Association's policy lines and to monitor the correct application of the decisions made by the bodies; namely the Board and the General Assembly.
6. Should the President be temporarily absent or unable to carry out his/her duties, the President's tasks are taken on by the Vice-President.
7. Without prejudice to the provision set forth in the 5th paragraph of this Article regulating those situations in which the President is temporarily absent or unable to carry out his/her duties, the Vice-President shall - in the event that the President's position become vacant as a result of the President standing down or being permanently unable or unfit to carry out his/her duties - become the President until a new General Assembly is held, at which the WFO Members shall, in accordance with the mechanism provided for above in the Statutes and in the Rules of Procedure, either ratify the President (and elect a new Vice President) or elect a new President (and the current President will return to be Vice President). In either case, the President thus ratified or elected and the possible elected new Vice President:
 - i. may, in derogation of the provision set forth in the 3rd paragraph of this Article, come from the same constituency as President and Vice President replaced by him or her.
 - ii. shall, pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article, serve a full two-year term that may be renewed once, save for the situation in which the President thus ratified or elected and the possible elected new Vice President come from the same constituency as the previous President and Vice President. In the latter case he or she shall remain in such position until the end of the mandate - which may be renewed once - of the President or Vice President he or she replaced and the period of time for which the offices of WFO President and Vice President may be filled by persons coming from the same constituency shall not exceed four years.

8. In the event that the Vice-President becomes President under the 5th paragraph of this Article, the Board may proceed to fill the vacancy left on the Board by co-opting a new Board member, who shall be from the same constituency as the Vice-President and shall remain in the position until the next General Assembly, at which the nomination shall either be ratified or another nomination shall be made by the new Board member's constituency to last until the end of the mandate of the Board member thus replaced.
9. The President convenes and presides over General Assembly and Board meetings.

ARTICLE XIV – THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

1. As provided for under the WFO Rules of Procedure, the Board of Auditors is comprised of three regular members who are appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom shall be an independent professional auditor, who shall act as Chairman of such Board, as well as by two alternate Auditors, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly.
2. The regular auditors have a two-year term, unless they are removed from their positions by the General Assembly due to a serious issue and/or just cause and their mandates may only be renewed once. The term of office of the auditors shall begin on the date of their election by the General Assembly and shall end at the General Assembly to be held two years after their election, pursuant to the WFO Rules of Procedure.
3. If during any given year one or more positions on the Board of Auditors become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by the oldest Alternate Auditor and, in the event that another position on the Board of Auditors becomes vacant, by the other Alternate Auditor, until the following General Assembly, in occasion of which, as the case may be, the appointment/appointments of the Alternate Auditor/Auditors shall be ratified - who shall remain in office until the end of the term of the Auditor/Auditors thus replaced - or a new Auditor/Auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly. In the event that the Regular Auditor to be replaced is an independent professional auditor, the Alternate Auditor replacing him/her shall have the same qualifications.
4. The Board of Auditors carries out, also in the interest of the WFO Members and their General Assembly, accounting and administrative supervision relating to the management of the WFO, assures that accounting entries are correct, checks the accounts and presents its own report to the General Assembly on the previous year's final budget, as well as on the on-going and following year's provisional budgets, pursuant to the WFO Rules of Procedure.
5. The Auditors can be invited to attend the meetings of both the General Assembly and the Board.
6. The Board of Auditors meetings may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of the equal treatment of members are respected.

ARTICLE XV - THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The Board shall appoint the Secretary General. He/she may be from outside the WFO membership and must demonstrate the appropriate skills and professionalism to manage the Association.
2. The Secretary General remains in the position for a period of time determined upon his/her appointment or until he/she is removed from the position.
3. The Secretary General:
 - is responsible for the staff
 - works together with the President in the execution of Secretary General's tasks, including when these tasks relate to the application of decisions made by the statutory bodies
 - is responsible for organisational activity, for the correct functioning of the WFO offices and for keeping documents for the Association
 - is responsible for coordination with the President and the Association's bodies in relation to the fulfilment of their mandates
 - attends the meetings of the Association's bodies, without the right to vote, assuming the function of a Secretary in the meetings and undersigning the minutes of such meetings.
 - is responsible for issues delegated to him/her by the Board;
 - carries out by means of relevant power of attorney, the tasks assigned to him/her by the Board.
4. The Board may at any time remove the Secretary General from the position.

ARTICLE XVI - TREASURER

1. The Board shall elect from its members a Treasurer by majority.
2. The Treasurer shall occupy this position for his/her entire term as a member of the Board, unless he/she stands down prematurely or his/her mandate is terminated or revoked by the Board by majority, at any given time. The Treasurer shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) give his/her opinion as to whether the ordinary or extraordinary expenditure as decided by the Board is compatible with the obligation of balancing the budget;
 - b) maintain contact with the members and affiliates on issues relating to financing the WFO, including membership fees; c) report to the General Assembly the decisions taken by the Board on the financial affairs of the WFO;
 - c) approach the members and the affiliates respectively for the membership fees and for the affiliation fees due;
 - d) oversee the general financial situation of the WFO and provide the General Assembly with opinions on problems relating to it.

HEADING IV

ASSETS – THE ASSOCIATION'S RECEIPTS

ARTICLE XVII – ASSETS

1. The assets of the WFO comprise the following:
 - a) funds provided by the members as part of the constitutive act of the WFO;
 - b) movable and immovable property having come under the ownership of the WFO upon purchase, bequest, donation, attribution or by any other means;
 - c) funds issued as reserves or provisions;
 - d) any contributions from physical persons, public or private bodies;
 - e) any fees from members and affiliates;
 - f) financial contributions of any kind destined to increase the assets, upon the decision of the Board.
2. The assets of the WFO are also made up of any other receipts, movable or immovable property aimed at increasing the capital and they can be enhanced or increased through endowments, donations, bequests, gifts, contributions or testamentary dispositions according to the procedures and conditions laid down in the appropriate legislation.
3. The annual fees payable by the members and affiliates shall be determined in accordance with the general operational needs of the WFO in view of achieving a balanced budget. Funds received beyond dues and project grant funding shall be used only to satisfy non-policy development costs of the WFO.

ARTICLE XVIII – FINANCIAL YEAR

1. The financial year for the WFO begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December each year.
2. Within 120 days after the close of the financial year, the General Assembly shall approve the accounts for the previous year. Should there be a legitimate reason for doing so, approval of the accounts shall be possible up until 180 days after the close of the financial year, as provided for under the WFO Rules of Procedure
3. By 31st December each year, the General Assembly shall approve the provisional budget for the following financial year.
4. The accounts shall be accompanied by the report of the Board of Auditors.

HEADING V

DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION – FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XIX – DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

1. The WFO shall be dissolved in accordance with all cases provided for by the Italian Civil Code and when decided by the General Assembly if at least three quarters of the members vote in favour.

2. The General Assembly shall appoint the liquidators according to the same majority as for the dissolution.
3. Following liquidation, the residual assets shall be transferred in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly which approved the dissolution. They shall be transferred to any organisation having objectives similar, shared or complementary to those of the WFO or offered for public use unless other purposes are stipulated by legislation.

ARTICLE XX – WORKING LANGUAGES

1. The working languages of the WFO are Italian, English, French and Spanish. The official language for all WFO legal acts, official reports and minutes, shall be Italian, which shall also be translated into English.

ARTICLE XXI - REFERRAL

1. For all matters which are not expressly provided for or governed by the present Statutes, the provisions of the Italian Civil Code and the appropriate Italian legislation in force shall apply.
2. Any committees as may be established pursuant to Article X of these Statutes shall be regulated by the WFO Rules of Procedure and any specific bylaws that the General Assembly may deem fit to approve. In case of conflict between the Rules of Procedure and such bylaws, the provisions set forth in the former shall prevail over the latter.

ARTICLE XXII – RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. Pursuant to Article X, 1st paragraph, letter d) of these Statutes, the General Assembly approves Rules of Procedure which regulate the procedural matters pertaining to the functioning of the Association.

ARTICLE XXIII – TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

1. The present Statutes (as approved together with the approval of the present Transitional provision) will come into definitive force on the date of its approval by the Prefecture of Rome pursuant article 2 of the Decree of the President of Italian Republic 10/02/2000 n° 361.
2. After the approval of the present Statutes by the Prefecture of Rome, this latter will proceed, according to the amended and new statutory provisions, with the First Election or the Second Election (depending on the natural expiration of the current President) and the following General Assembly respectively with the Second or First Election. Until these elections, the current Board members will remain in charge according to their mandate.

3. The amended and new statutory provisions regarding the requirements in order to be eligible as WFO's member will not be applicable to the members that have been already admitted at the date of approval of the present Statutes and that, therefore, will remain WFO's member.

