

Statutes of the International Federation of Liberal Youth

As adopted by the 55th General Assembly held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
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1 GENERAL

1.1 NAME

The association is established under Belgian law with the name “International Federation of Liberal Youth, Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL)”. This is abbreviated as IFLRY.

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1.2 PLACE

The registered office of the association is located in the Brussels-Capital Region of Belgium.

1.2-1

1.3 AIM

IFLRY is a federation of youth organisations and young individuals with the collective aim of promoting freedom and advocating for political liberalism around the globe. IFLRY commits itself to the active advancement of human rights, democracy, stable property rights, rule of law, and free trade. IFLRY provides political education and acts as a platform for networking and exchanging ideas. These aims shall be advanced through publications, seminars, policy recommendations, exchanges, symposia, courses, and statutory events. IFLRY further strives to facilitate democratic inclusion, local and international activism, and cooperation between its member organisations.

1.3-1

1.4 LANGUAGE

The official languages of the organisation are French, Spanish and English. The working language of the association is English and is used for all official documents apart from the Statutes, for which the French version is binding as required by Belgian law.

1.4-1

1.5 DOCUMENTS

The statutory governing documents of the association are, in order of precedence:

1.5-1

- **Statutes,**
- **Rules of Procedure,**
- **Internal Regulations.**

1.5-2

The Statutes provide a broad overview of the structure and purpose of the association. The Rules of Procedure set out the organisational procedures including meetings, voting and decision making processes of the association. The Internal Regulations govern the behaviours, rights and responsibilities of members. Where the statutory documents cannot be applied, the General Assembly decides.

1.5-3

2 AFFILIATIONS

2.1 LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

IFLRY is a full member of the Liberal International and holds a special status as its officially recognised international liberal youth organisation. In this capacity, IFLRY collaborates closely with Liberal International to promote shared values, while retaining complete autonomy and independence in its decision-making, governance, and activities.

2.1-1

3 STRUCTURE

IFLRY operates on a federal structure and is primarily composed of member organisations. The highest decision-making body of the association is the **General Assembly** (see [Article 6.1: General Assembly](#)), comprising representatives from its members. The General Assembly is responsible for setting the overall direction of the association and adopting key decisions.

3-1

Daily management and external representation are handled by an elected executive **Bureau** (see [Article 6.2: The Bureau](#)), which operates in accordance with the Statutes and decisions of the General Assembly. The work of the Bureau is overseen by an **Advisory Council** (see [Article 6.3: Advisory Council](#)), which provides guidance and ensures that the Bureau adheres to the policies and strategic direction set by the General Assembly.

3-2

The General Assembly, Bureau, and Advisory Council are the three statutory bodies that collectively govern the association in compliance with Belgian law. The association may employ staff, collectively referred to as the **Office**, to handle administrative and operational tasks (see [Article 10.2: The Office](#)). The Office operates under the direction of the Bureau.

3-3

4 VOTING THRESHOLDS

IFLRY has the following voting methods:

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- **simple majority:** requires a greater number of votes in favour than against;
- **absolute majority:** requires a greater number of votes in favour than the combined number of votes abstaining and against;
- **simple two-thirds majority:** requires a greater number of votes in favour than twice the number against;
- **absolute two-thirds majority:** requires a greater number of votes in favour than twice the combined number of votes abstaining and against.

4-2

Unless specified otherwise, all decisions made by the bodies defined in these Statutes shall be made by simple majority.

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Abstaining from voting is always allowed. Both actively abstaining, where the abstention is specifically communicated, as well as passive abstentions, where a voting member of a body is counted as present but refrains from voting, are treated identically.

4-4

5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 COMPOSITION

IFLRY is composed of five types of member organisations:

5.1-1

- **Full Members**
- **Associate Members**
- **Observer Members**
- **The Individual Members Group**
- **Regional Members**

5.1-2

5.2 MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION

All national youth or national student organisations in agreement with the aims of IFLRY (as described in [Article 1.3: Aim](#)) and the **Manifesto** are welcome to apply for full or associate membership status. Similarly, international youth organisations representing a coherent region of the world and satisfying the same requirements are welcome to apply for regional membership status. Organisations that do not fit these criteria may instead apply for observer membership.

5.2-1

The Individual Members Group (IMG) is a distinct entity which collectively holds membership in its own right. Admission to the IMG is granted by an **Individual Members Vetting Committee** (IMVC) appointed by the Bureau.

5.2-2

Full membership can be granted by an absolute two-thirds majority of Full Members present at the General Assembly. Regional membership can be granted by an absolute two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly. Associate membership can be granted by an absolute majority vote of the General Assembly. Observer membership can be granted by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly.

5.2-3

5.3 MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

All members commit themselves to fulfilling both of the following membership obligations:

5.3-1

- (a) to adhere to the financial obligations as stated in the Membership Fee Statute. Organisations and individual members which have fulfilled these obligations are considered in good financial standing;

5.3-2

- (b) to uphold the values as stated in the Manifesto.

5.4 MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION, TERMINATION AND MODIFICATION

Member organisations and individual members can be temporarily suspended, or have their membership terminated, for breaches of membership obligations as described in [Article 5.3: Membership Obligations](#) or other severe reasons. The voting procedure used for suspending or expelling an organisation is the same as would be used for admitting any other organisation of an equivalent membership type.

5.4-1

6 STATUTORY BODIES

6.1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of IFLRY and has full powers to accomplish the aims and objectives of the Federation. The General Assembly is made up of all members of the Federation.

6.1-1

The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year, at a date and place determined by the Bureau.

6.1-2

Only full and associate member organisations in good financial standing shall be accorded voting rights. Voting rights in the General Assembly are to be distributed according to the membership type and size of the member organisation.

6.1-3

The General Assembly holds all powers expressly granted to it by Belgian law, including but not limited to:

6.1-4

- (a) Approval of the annual accounts and budget.
- (b) Election and dismissal of Bureau members.
- (c) Admission and exclusion of members.
- (d) Amendment of the Statutes.
- (e) Dissolution of the AISBL and allocation of its assets.

6.1-5

6.1.1 Extraordinary General Assembly

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by a simple majority by the Bureau, by (a group of) full member organisations representing at least one-fifth of the votes that would have been cast at the most recent General Assembly or one-fourth of the full member organisations or one-tenth of all organisations.

6.1.1-1

6.2 THE BUREAU

6.2.1 General

The IFLRY Bureau consists of up to seven Bureau members elected by a General Assembly. The **Managing Bureau** consists of three Bureau members: **President**, **Secretary General**, and **Treasurer** who shall serve as the Board of Directors (Organe d'Administration) under Belgian Law. The **Extended Bureau** consists of up to four **Vice Presidents**. The Managing Bureau will be elected for a period of two years; the Vice Presidents will be elected for a period of one year. The election and responsibilities of the Bureau are described further in the Rules of Procedure.

6.2.1-1

The Bureau is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Federation and for the control of all its resources. The Bureau has to report to the General Assembly. Regional Member Organisations can appoint Regional Bureau Appointees. Regional Bureau Appointees do not have voting rights in the Bureau.

6.2.1-2

6.2.2 Suspension and Resignation

Individual Bureau Members can be suspended from their Bureau. They can also be forced to resign by the General Assembly. The details of this process are explained in the Rules of Procedure.

6.2.2-1

6.2.3 Legal Status

The association shall be represented towards third parties and in legal matters by at least two members of the Managing Bureau acting jointly, unless otherwise specified by the Statutes or Belgian law.

6.2.3-1

6.3 ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is appointed by the general assembly to advise the Bureau. The composition, role, and terms are laid down in the Internal Regulations.

6.3-1

7 AUDITORS

There shall be two auditors, who shall be elected at a General Assembly for a period of two years. They are responsible for examining the accounts and general finances of the Federation and assessing how the Bureau has carried out the decisions taken by the General Assembly. They shall produce a report at least annually which is presented to the General Assembly.

7-1

8 OMBUDSPERSON

The ombudsperson shall monitor any cases of disagreement or conflict, ill-treatment, or abuse of power and authority within any part of the Federation. The role of the Ombudsperson is bound by strict rules of confidentiality and shall be executed with full integrity, impartiality, and with respect to due process, dignity, and liberal values.

8-1

9 COMMITTEE OF DISCIPLINE AND ARBITRATION

The Committee of Discipline and Arbitration shall be composed of three members selected by the Bureau and approved by the General Assembly for a two year mandate. The Committee of Discipline and Arbitration shall be competent for any disciplinary issue not falling within the scope of the explicit rights of the General Assembly, for any dispute between two member organisations, for any dispute between the Bureau and a member of IFLRY, and for a dispute between participants of an official IFLRY events.

9-1

10 ADMINISTRATION

10.1 THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of IFLRY is the calendar year.

10.1-1

10.2 THE OFFICE

The Office consists of at least the Executive Director, possibly joined by other staff as decided by the Bureau. Any changes to the Office are decided by the Bureau. In cases where the position of Executive Director is vacant, the Secretary General may act as a contact point for issues that would normally be handled by the Office.

10.2-1

11 AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Every proposal that aims to amend the documents listed in [Article 1.5: Documents](#) can be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly. Proposals to change the Statutes must be made by the Bureau, or by a group of no less than two full member organisations.

11-1

12 DISSOLUTION

Every proposal that aims to dissolve the Federation must be put forward by the Bureau, a group of full member organisations representing at least one-fifth of the votes that could

12-1

have been cast at the most recent General Assembly, or by a group of at least one-fourth of the full member organisations. Any proposal for dissolution of the Federation must be carried by two consecutive General Assemblies. At the first General Assembly, the proposal must be supported by at least a two-thirds majority. At the second General Assembly, the same proposal must have a simple majority in order to take effect.

The General Assembly will determine in which manner the Federation is dissolved and in which manner the dissolution is settled.

12-2

In case of dissolution, any remaining net assets of the AISBL shall be allocated to one or more non-profit organisations with similar purposes, as determined by the General Assembly. Under no circumstances may the assets be returned to members or used for their benefit.

12-3
