



# Statutes of the Global Greens

association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL)  
A Non-Profit Organisation

Adopted in Bolivia  
27 November 2013

## Preamble

“Global Greens” is the partnership of the world’s Green Parties and Green political movements, working cooperatively to implement the Global Greens Charter annexed hereto.<sup>1</sup> The Charter is a unique and inspiring document which sets out our core values of ecological wisdom, social justice, equality, freedom, participatory democracy, non-violence, sustainability and respect for diversity.

## Article 1 Definitions

1.1 “Global Greens Charter” means the founding document of the Global Greens adopted at Canberra in April 2001 as amended from time to time by the Global Greens Congress.

1.2 “Membership” means collectively those categories of Members specified in Article 4.

1.3 “Global Greens Co-ordination” (“GGC”) means the body detailed in Article 5.

1.4 “Federations” are those regional groupings as defined in Article 5.3

1.5 “Executive Committee” means the body detailed in Article 5.4

1.6 “Rule Book” means the detailed rules for the functioning, management and operations of the Global Greens and the composition of its bodies adopted in accordance with Article 8.1

1.7 “Parties” means registered political parties or those recognised by their relevant Federation.

1.8 “Global Young Greens” (“GYG”) means the global youth network of young green activists and organisations recognised by the Global Greens.

1.9 “Consensus” means the form of decision-making whereby a defined quorum is present at the meeting and that there are no recorded objections to a proposed action or decision.

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1 See Annex 1

## **Article 2 Name and Seat**

2.1 Through the present statutes we create the international non-profit association (AISBL) “Global Greens”, regulated by the dispositions of Title III of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations (ASBL), international non-profit associations (AISBL) and foundations.

2.2 The Association is formed for an unlimited period.

2.3 The seat of the Global Greens is situated at rue Wiertz 31, in 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

2.4 The Executive Committee may move the seat anywhere in Belgium by a majority vote. The move must be published in the Moniteur Belge in accordance with the Belgian law.

2.5 The Global Greens, acting through the Executive Committee, shall maintain bank accounts and keep detailed financial accounts and shall report at least once a year to the Full Members through the Global Greens Coordination acting as the Governing Council on the state of the finances.

2.6 The financial year of the organisation shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

## **Article 3 Aims and Objectives**

3.1 The aims and objectives of the Global Greens are to promote and defend the principles contained in the Global Greens Charter and policies duly adopted by its official bodies. We seek to achieve these by, inter alia,

3.1.1 Supporting Green Parties and movements world-wide;

3.1.2 Developing a common Global Greens voice and a shared knowledge base of Green perspectives on what is needed to solve global problems;

3.1.3 Building capacity for political and electoral engagement, and encouraging the building of partnerships between large established Green Parties with elected representatives and emerging Green Parties;

3.1.4 Assisting policy development, research and campaigning;

3.1.5 Working closely with other Green partners, foundations and institutes;

3.1.6 Communicating, cooperating and networking between Greens around the world at all levels of political activities;

3.1.7 Facilitating and representing the voice of the Global Green movement at international events and mobilisations.

3.2 In order to achieve its aims and objectives, the Global Greens may undertake any activity related directly or indirectly to such aims and objectives which may lead to their development and/or realisation.

## **Article 4 Membership and Subscriptions**

4.1 Membership of the Global Greens is open to Green Parties and Green movements and organisations.

4.2 There are three categories of Membership

### **4.2.1 Full Members**

Full Members are Green Parties or Green political organisations intending to become Green Parties, duly admitted as such by their relevant Federation, which have duly paid their subscription and which fulfil the membership criteria as defined in the Rule Book. Full Members have full participation rights of introducing resolutions, speaking and voting at Global Greens Congresses.

### **4.2.2 Associate Members**

Associate Members are Green Parties or political movements duly admitted as such by their relevant Federation and which fulfil the criteria for this category of membership defined in the Rule Book. Associate Members have participation rights of introducing resolutions and speaking, but not voting at Global Greens Congresses

### **4.2.3 Partners of the Global Greens**

Partners of the Global Greens are non-profit, non-governmental organisations, foundations and institutes duly approved as such by the Global Greens Coordination, and which fulfil the criteria for this category of membership defined in the Rule Book. Partners may have participation rights at Global Greens Congresses as determined by the GGC, but do not have the right to vote.

4.3 Regulations concerning admission, withdrawal, participation in Congresses and other aspects of Membership are detailed in the Rule Book.

4.4 The special status of the GYG, including participation rights and responsibilities, including at Global Greens Congresses, is defined in the Rule Book.

4.5 Each Member shall pay an annual subscription, the level of which shall be set each year sufficiently in advance by the GGC. It is the responsibility of each Federation to determine how the fees of its constituent Members are applied, collected and paid. Partners which are global organisations and not affiliated to a specific Federation shall pay their fees directly to the Global Greens account.

4.6 The Secretariat shall maintain a list of all Members and their categorisation, validated by their respective Federations. This list shall be updated annually.

4.7 Between Congresses, Members exercise their rights and responsibilities through the duly nominated representatives of their respective Federations.

## **Article 5 Structure and Bodies**

### **5.1 Global Greens Co-ordination (GGC)**

5.1.1 The GGC is the Governing Council of the Global Greens and functions as the General Assembly of the Association.

5.1.2 It is the primary decision-making body between meetings of the Congress. Its detailed operating role and responsibilities are laid down in the Rule Book. Inter alia, it is responsible for adopting, amending and administering the Rule Book containing detailed rules for the functioning, management and operations of the Global Greens.

5.1.3 The GGC is convened by the Executive Committee and meets at least once a year. Meetings may be in person or held over the internet, and/or by means of electronic or telephonic conference calls. Meetings may be formally spread over a period of time to allow for decisions to be taken and recorded online.

5.1.4 The GGC consists of representatives nominated by each of the regional Federations specified in Article 5.3. Each Federation may nominate three representatives and may also nominate three people to act as substitutes for their representatives in circumstances set out in the Rule Book. Each Federation shall designate a “lead” representative and a substitute “lead” representative from within its representatives.

5.1.5 In addition to the full and substitute representatives of the Federations, the GGC may co-opt people with specific expertise or knowledge and appoint advisors and observers as it considers necessary and as provided in the Rule Book. Such co-opted persons do not vote in the GGC or have the right to block consensus.

5.1.6 Full and substitute representatives of the GGC may serve up to two terms of three years beginning from the date of incorporation. In exceptional individual circumstances, and only with the express approval of the GGC and the relevant Federation, a representative may serve a further three year term.

5.1.7 Full and substitute representatives may be replaced by decision of their respective Federation.

5.1.8 The GGC makes decisions by consensus. Decisions made at meetings of the GGC shall be recorded and circulated to its members. Detailed decision-making procedures are set out in the Rule Book.

5.1.9 The quorum required for decisions by the GGC is a minimum of two representatives from each of the Federations specified in Article 5.3 including their lead representatives or duly designated substitute lead representatives.

5.1.10 In the absence of a quorum at a GGC meeting, a provisional decision may be made by consensus amongst those present and circulated for decision within a designated time period not less than 48 hours.

5.1.11 Meetings of the GGC require a minimum of 120 hours' notice. In an emergency a meeting may be convened with 48 hours' notice.

5.1.12 In the exceptional circumstances set out in Articles 5.3.5 and Article 7 a decision may be taken by formal majority vote.

5.1.13 The GGC shall appoint a Convenor from amongst its members. The Convenor is responsible for coordinating the work of the Executive, the Secretariat and the GGC. The Convenor does not vote in the Executive or in the GGC but may call for a decision to be made or reconsidered and shall facilitate consensus building.

5.1.14 The Convenor is neutral and does not act as a representative of her/his Federation. Once appointed, the respective Federation may appoint or elect a further GGC member as a replacement.

## **5.2 Congress**

5.2.1 The Global Greens Congress operates as an enhanced General Assembly and is the highest decision-making body of the Global Greens. It must be convened by the GGC at least once each five years save for exceptional circumstances.

5.2.2 The Congress is the guardian of the Global Greens Charter and is the only body authorised to add to or amend it in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Rule Book.

5.2.3 Each Full Member is entitled to vote at the Congress. Details of the composition of delegations, voting rights, decision-making and other matters are contained in the Rule Book.

5.2.4 Congress may adopt Resolutions on any political, policy, administrative or other matter which it considers relevant, subject to the detailed regulations in the Rule Book.

5.2.5 Congress may bestow honours upon individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the cause of Green politics and its objectives.

## **5.3 Federations**

5.3.1 The Federations play a key role in the Global Greens. They are responsible for ensuring that their Members uphold the Global Greens Charter. Other responsibilities are defined in these Statutes and in the Rule Book.

5.3.2 Global Greens Federations are

- The African Greens Federation
- The Asia-Pacific Greens Federation
- La Federacion de los Partidos Verdes de las Americas
- The European Green Party

5.3.3 The GGC may propose to Congress to amend the list in 5.3.2.

5.3.4 The Federations as such do not vote at Congresses and their interests are routinely represented there by their own constituent member parties. However the lead representative of any Federation may table a formal objection to any proposed resolution, decision or action arising at a Congress. In such a case the matter shall be deferred for reconsideration by the GGC, whose decision shall be final.

5.3.5. If, by a three-quarters majority vote, the GGC determines that any Federation is not functioning democratically and/or responsibly, or is failing to uphold the Global Greens Charter, the GGC shall by the same majority determine the appropriate steps to be taken, including mediation as necessary, to enable a properly functioning Federation to be re-established. In the interim, the GGC may by the same majority take action to ensure that the benefits of Global Greens membership, including participation in forthcoming Congresses, are preserved for Members of that Federation. Before a final decision is made the affected Federation may appeal to the Conciliation Panel.

5.3.6 If any Member is alleged to have failed to uphold the Global Greens Charter, the relevant Federation shall investigate the allegation and, if proven, shall take action to prevent the Global Greens being brought into disrepute.

5.3.7 Detailed provisions regulating the matters concerned in articles 5.3.4, 5.3.5 and 5.3.6 are contained in the Rule Book.

#### **5.4 Executive Committee**

5.4.1 The GGC shall appoint an Executive Committee to be responsible for the operational management and administrative work of the Global Greens between Congresses and to co-ordinate policy proposals for the GGC. It shall comprise a minimum of five people including the lead representative or substitute from each Federation, the Convenor and the Treasurer. Additional advisers may be added providing the total number of members does not exceed seven.

5.4.2 Decisions shall be made by consensus. Consensus can only be blocked by the Federation representatives and, in the case of financial decisions, additionally by the Treasurer.

5.4.3 The quorum required for decisions by the Executive is a minimum of one representative from each of the Federations specified in Article 5.3 including their lead representatives or duly designated substitute lead representatives.

5.4.4 Regulations for the convening and operations of the Executive are specified in the Rule Book.

5.4.5 The Executive Committee shall appoint a Treasurer who will oversee the Global Greens finances, prepare annual financial reports and report to the GGC and Congress.

5.4.6 Advisers and the Treasurer, who are not otherwise covered by the term limits in 5.1.6, may serve two terms of three years.

## **5.5 Networks**

5.5.1 The Global Greens Network is a forum to promote more effective worldwide communication among Green parties and movements.

5.5.2 The GGC or Congress may create additional thematic and other networks and working groups in accordance with procedures specified in the Rule Book.

## **5.6 Secretariat**

5.6.1 The Secretariat consists of employees and volunteers whose task is to support and implement decisions of the GGC, the Executive, the Convenor and the Treasurer. The tasks and responsibilities of the Secretariat are set out in the Rule Book.

5.6.2 The Secretariat shall be based in a location determined from time to time by the GGC.

## **5.7 Conciliation Panel**

5.7.1 The GGC shall appoint a Conciliation Panel consisting of a minimum of 5 persons to assist in settling disputes on issues relating to the interpretation of these Statutes or the Rule Book or other matters that may affect the integrity or functioning of the Global Greens. Disputes should be settled in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

5.7.2 The Panel shall be convened by and report to the Executive except where otherwise provided in the Rule Book.

5.7.3 Detailed provisions for the appointment, scope of responsibilities, mandate and operation of the Conciliation Panel shall be specified in the Rule Book.

## **Article 6 Legal liability and representation**

6.1 The Executive Committee is legally liable for actions of the Global Greens within the limits of the laws of the country where the official seat of the Global Greens is situated in accordance with Article 2 hereof.

6.2 Contracts on behalf of the Global Greens require a minimum of two signatures from a group of five persons nominated by the Executive.

6.3 Detailed procedures on signatures and the operation of bank accounts are contained in the Rule Book.

6.4 Any person duly authorised by the Executive Committee may represent the

Global Greens and defend its interests in court and act as its legal representatives in any jurisdiction.

6.5 The Global Greens may appoint a special proxy holder, and is legally bound by acts of such person within the limits of their power of attorney.

## **Article 7 Dissolution**

7.1 The Executive Committee or a minimum of one third of the Full Members of the Global Greens or the GGC, may propose that the Global Greens be dissolved. The Congress must consider this proposal and may decide to dissolve the Global Greens. If it is impractical for Congress to be convened in a timely manner, the GGC in consultation with the Federations must consider this proposal and may decide to dissolve the Global Greens. A decision by the Congress or the GGC to dissolve the Global Greens must be made by consensus except as provided for in Article 7.4

7.2 Where the legal and/or fiduciary duties of this AISBL can no longer be duly exercised, a proposal to dissolve the Global Greens shall be put to the GGC by the Executive Committee or by any two members of the GGC. The decision by the GGC to dissolve the Global Greens must be made by consensus except as provided for in Article 7.4.

7.3 If a Federation has ceased to be represented on the GGC or has ceased to function, the remaining GGC representatives shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of reaching a consensus on a motion under Article 7.1 or 7.2.

7.4 If, under Article 7.1, 7.2 or 7.3 there is no consensus on a proposal to dissolve the Global Greens, a decision shall be made by majority vote. The quorum for such a decision is two representatives from each of the Federations listed in article 5.3 (subject to article 7.3) including their lead representative and/or their substitute lead representative. The motion to be decided shall be circulated in writing a minimum of 168 hours in advance of the meeting. The double majority required is a majority of Federations and a majority of representatives. In the case of deadlock the Convenor may exercise a casting vote.

7.5 As from the moment the decision is taken to dissolve the Global Greens, it is required to mention at all times that it is 'in dissolution'.

7.6 Upon dissolution, the GGC shall decide on (i) the appointment, the powers and the remuneration of the liquidator(s), (ii) the methods and procedures of the liquidation. All such decisions have to be duly filed at the clerk's office of the competent Commercial Court and published in the Annexes to the Moniteur Belge in line with the applicable legislation.

7.7 In the event of the final liquidation of the Global Greens, after the settlement of contractual obligations to staff and other obligations, the remaining financial and other assets shall be distributed equally amongst the existing Federations or, if that is not possible, to the The Green Forum to be used for the benefit of like-minded organisations.

## **Article 8 Additional provisions**

8.1 The GGC shall adopt by consensus a Rule Book containing detailed rules for the functioning, management and operations of the Global Greens and its bodies in accordance with these Statutes.

8.2 The GGC may amend these Statutes after giving a minimum of three months' notice to the Federations. The GGC must decide on the proposed amendments by consensus. The GGC and Members may propose amendments to the Statutes to be decided at a Global Greens Congress after giving a minimum of four months' notice to the GGC. The GGC may not amend the Statutes within a period of six months before a Global Greens Congress.

8.3 Amendments to the Rule Book may only be made by the GGC acting by consensus.

8.4 In compliance with Article III of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 governing non-profit organisations, international non-profit organisations and foundations, all changes to the present Statutes must be submitted to the Ministry of Justice and published in the Appendixes of the Moniteur Belge.

8.5 Any omissions to the present Statutes are covered by the law of 27 June 1921 governing non-profit organisations, international non-profit organisations and foundations.

8.6 Matters related to the application of the present Statutes shall be determined by the courts of Brussels or by arbitration and the laws of Belgium shall apply.

8.7 In the event of divergence or of doubt between these statutes in French and the original version in English, the English language version prevails.

## **Article 9 Coming into force**

9.1 These Statutes shall come into force at the same time as the adoption by the GGC of the Rule Book.