



# STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBERAL YOUTH (IFLRY)

## **Statutes**

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)

as adopted by the IFLRY Extraordinary General Assembly in Madrid, Spain, April 6th, 1990 (translated from original text in Dutch) and last amended at the 39th General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

### **A. GENERAL**

#### **Article (Statutes) I. Name**

The organisation is established as an international association under the name International Federation of Liberal Youth (abbreviated as IFLRY).

#### **Article (Statutes) II. Place**

The secretariat of the association is at 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD, UNITED KINGDOM.

#### **Article (Statutes) III. Aims**

The aim of IFLRY shall be to promote freedom and advocate the ideas of political liberalism around the globe. Through a holistic understanding of the importance of political and economic liberty on human flourishing IFLRY commits itself to the active advancement of human rights, democracy, stable property rights, rule of law, and free trade. IFLRY regards itself as a provider of political education and a platform for networking and exchanging ideas on the basis of common publications, seminars, travels, symposia, courses, Annu, and statutory events; it further aims at facilitating democratic inclusion, local and international activism, and cooperation between its member organizations.

### **B. RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

#### **Article (Statutes) IV. Liberal International**

In order to achieve its aims, IFLRY shall co-operate with Liberal International. IFLRY is a full member organisation of Liberal International and it is independent in all decisions.

### **C. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Article (Statutes) V. Composition**

IFLRY consists of member organisations and observer organizations. IFLRY has three types of member organisations: full members, candidate members and regional members.

#### **Article (Statutes) VI. Criteria**

Every national youth or student organisation having legal personality (or coming from a country where it is unable to obtain legal personality because of the nature of its activities) and being in agreement with the aims of IFLRY and with the principles expressed in the Manifesto shall have the right to apply for candidate membership of IFLRY.

Organizations that do not fit these criteria may apply for observer status in the Federation.

Only candidate members may apply for full membership.

Every regional organisation being in agreement with the aims of IFLRY and with the principles expressed in the Manifesto shall have the right to apply for regional membership of IFLRY.

#### **Article VII. Membership Accession & Termination**

Members shall be admitted to the association by a vote of the General Assembly.

Members can resign from the association voluntarily, or be expelled by a vote of the General Assembly.

#### **Article VIII. Membership Rights**

Members have the right of information within the association, with potential restrictions for non-Full Members at the discretion of the Bureau. All members have the right to nominate persons for non-official positions contributing to the aims of the Federation.

Regional members have the right to appoint a representative to the Bureau as Regional Bureau Member.

The rights of Members in the decision-making procedures within the association are stipulated in the Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article IX. Membership Obligations**

All members commit themselves to fulfil the membership obligations, which are:

- a) To adhere to the financial obligations as stated in the Membership Fee Statute. Organizations which have fulfilled these obligations are considered in good standing.
- b) To uphold the values as stated in the Manifesto.
- c) To support the work being done by the statutory bodies of the association.

### **D. STATUTORY BODIES**

#### **Article X. General**

The statutory bodies of the association are the General Assembly and the Bureau. The General Assembly is referred to as a statutory event.

Only organisations in good standing shall be accorded voting rights at statutory events.

#### Article XI. General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of IFLRY and has full powers to accomplish the aims of the association. The General Assembly is made up of all members of the association. Voting rights in the General Assembly are to be distributed according to the size of the member organisation by a formula set out in the Rules of Procedure. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year, at a date and place the bureau determines. The Bureau must announce the date and location two months prior to the General Assembly.

#### Article XII. Extraordinary General Assembly

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by a simple majority in the Bureau, by (a group of) full member organisations representing at least one-fifth (1/5) of the votes that could have been cast at the most recent General Assembly or one-fourth (1/4) of the full member organisations.

## **Article XII. Bureau**

The Bureau is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association and for the control of all assets. The Bureau is accountable for all its activities to the General Assembly. The Bureau shall consist of a President, a Secretary General, a Treasurer, and four (4) Vice-Presidents. The President, Secretary General, and Treasurer will be elected for a period of two (2) years; the Vice-Presidents will be elected for a period of one (1) year.

The election and responsibilities of the Bureau are further described in the Rules of Procedure.

In addition, the Bureau shall consist of one (1) Regional Bureau Member per Regional Member organisation of IFLRY. The Bureau will have the right to appoint a Regional Bureau Member from regions that are not represented by Regional Member Organizations. Regional Bureau Members do not have voting rights in the Bureau.

Individual Bureau Members can be forced to resign by a General Assembly.

## **Article XIV. Legal Status**

Except in the case of special mandates all deeds that bind the association shall be signed by the President and Secretary-General or Treasurer who are not obliged to show powers to third parties.

All legal action, be it as claimant or a defendant, shall be taken, continued and expedited by the Bureau, represented by its President or a member of the Bureau appointed by the President.

## **Article XV. Standing Committees**

There shall be standing committees which shall meet at each General Assembly. Each committee shall consist of one (1) delegate from each full member organisation, selected pursuant to each organisation's own procedures.

The Bureau shall be represented in each standing committee in a non-voting capacity.

## **E. AUDITORS**

### **Article XVI. Composition & Purpose**

There shall be two (2) auditors, who shall be elected at a General Assembly for a period of two (2) years. The auditors shall examine the accounts and general finances of the association and give a report thereon to the General Assembly. The report to the General Assembly shall also include an assessment on how the Bureau has carried out the decisions taken by the General Assembly. The auditors shall additionally be responsible for the minutes of the General Assemblies.

None of the auditors shall have been a member of the previous Bureau or have been employed by IFLRY during the previous Bureau term.

## **F. ADMINISTRATION**

### **Article XVII. Financial Year**

The financial year of IFLRY shall end on December 31st of every year.

### **Article XVIII. Secretariat**

A decision to change the secretariat is taken by simple majority vote by the Bureau.

## **G. STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION**

### **Article XIX. Statutory amendments**

Every proposal that aims to change these statutes must be submitted to the Secretariat by the Bureau, or by a group of no less than two (2) full member organisations at least six (6) weeks prior to the General Assembly, or one (1) week after the announcement of an Extraordinary General Assembly. The proposal is adopted, if so decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

All changes to the Statutes take effect immediately after the adjournment of the General Assembly where they are adopted.

### **Article XX. Dissolution**

Every proposal that aims to dissolve the association must be put forward by the Bureau, by (a group of) full member organisations representing at least one-fifth (1/5) of the votes that could have been cast at the most recent General Assembly or by one-fourth (1/4) of the full member organisations. Any proposal for dissolution of the association must be carried by two (2) consecutive General Assemblies. At the first General Assembly, the proposal must be supported by at least a two-thirds (2/3) 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 association is dissolved and settled.

### **Article XXI. Statutes**

The interpretation of these Statutes is subject to the decision of the General Assembly. The General Assembly can arrange further matters in the Rules of Procedure, as long as these matters do not contradict the Statutes. Where the Statutes are not applicable, Rules of Procedure shall apply. When these are not applicable, the General Assembly shall decide in accordance with the provisions of the law.



# RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBERAL YOUTH (IFLRY)

## Rules of Procedure

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)

**as adopted by the IFLRY General Assembly in Troia, Portugal, December 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 1989 and last amended at the 39th General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

### A. GENERAL EVENT RULES

#### Article I. Voting

A quorum of 33% of the full member organisations in good standing shall be required to begin any meeting of a General Assembly.

Decisions are taken by a simple majority of those present and voting, with abstentions being counted as not voting, unless otherwise stated. In the event of a tied vote a recount shall be taken. If there is still a tied vote, the status quo shall persist.

Decisions are only valid where half of the total votes present at the opening of the meeting are cast. Abstentions shall be included for this purpose.

All elections shall take place by secret ballot. All non-election voting shall take place by secret ballot if requested by at least one-third (1/3) of the votes present.

For the Bureau a quorum of more than 50% of the Bureau members with voting rights is needed in order for a decision to be valid.

#### Article II. Membership Rights

Full members have the right to vote, the right to run candidates for the Bureau and auditor positions, the right to nominate officers, the right to put forward proposals and the right to submit amendments to all proposals.

Candidate members have the right to nominate officers, the right to put forward proposals and the right to submit amendments to all proposals except when it concerns the Manifesto, Statutes, the Rules of Procedure or financial documents.

Regional members have the right to put forward resolutions and the right to submit amendments to all proposals except when it concerns the Manifesto, Statutes or the Rules of Procedure or financial documents.

The Bureau wields the same rights as Full Members, except for voting rights at the General Assembly and the right to run candidates.

#### Article III. Delegations

Each member organisation shall be responsible for appointing their representatives to meetings of the General Assembly, provided that the representative is a member in good standing of the organisation represented. A member organisation may specify in writing to the Secretary General which of its representatives control voting rights for the organisation. If

no representative is specified in writing, any representative present that was nominated by the member organisation shall be entitled to vote on its behalf.

There shall be no limit to the number of participants attending from member organisations.

No employee or auditor of the Federation is allowed to hold the voting rights of a member organisation at a statutory meeting.

After the opening of the General Assembly no delegations or members of those delegations nominated to the General Assembly may exercise votes for another delegation. Voting by proxy is not possible.

#### **Article IV. Returning Officers**

The chair shall appoint three (3) returning officers to administer elections and conduct the ballot. The returning officers shall be persons not standing for elections.

The returning officers shall announce the deadline for nominations for auditors.

#### **Article V. Amendments**

Items to be discussed at the statutory event may take the form of:

1. Proposals: Items which propose a change from the status quo: resolutions, budget proposals, amendments to Manifesto, etc.
2. Reports: Items which report on the status quo: Bureau reports, annual reports, financial reports, auditor reports, etc.

Only proposals may be amended by the statutory event.

Only amendments that are submitted 24-hours prior to the opening of the meeting will be formally discussed, unless otherwise stated. Secondary amendments can be dealt with on spot, if the respective Standing Committee agrees to by simple majority.

#### **Article VI. Resolutions**

Resolutions to be dealt with at the General Assembly must be received by the IFLRY office two (2) weeks before the start of the meeting where they are to be dealt with. The office shall send to the member organisations a copy of all submitted resolutions at least one (1) week before the General Assembly takes place.

In addition, those resolutions shall be dealt with that, in the opinion of the General Assembly, could not have been proposed before the official deadline because of their urgent nature.

Only resolutions proposed before the beginning of the General Assembly can be submitted as urgency resolutions, unless a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting accepts a later resolution as urgent.

The proposer of a resolution may withdraw the resolution at any time before the vote by the meeting takes place.

#### **Article VII. Manifesto.**

Amendments to the Manifesto must be received by the IFLRY secretariat at least three (3) weeks in advance of the General Assembly. The secretariat shall send out to the member organisations a copy of all submitted amendments at least two (2) weeks before the General Assembly takes place.

Amendments will be adopted if accepted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

### **Article VIII. Financial documents**

The Membership Fee Statute for each upcoming year shall be proposed by the Bureau and disseminated among the member organizations six (6) weeks prior to the event where it will be adopted. It shall include the calculation method for the membership fees, rules regarding reduced membership fee applications and other membership fee related issues.

All other financial documents, including the budget and the financial report for adoption, will always be available to the members at least three (3) weeks before the start of the statutory event at which they need to be adopted.

### **Article IX. Opening Meeting**

At the beginning of each General Assembly, the draft agenda will be decided on, the minutes of the previous meeting will be put forward for adoption and the relevant officers are proposed for appointment. This part is always chaired by the Bureau.

Depending on the nature of the event, the officers for appointment may be Chairs, Standing Committee officers and returning officers.

## **B. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES**

### **Article X. Membership Application Procedure**

The admission of new members is subject to the following conditions:

Full membership and regional membership can only be granted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at the General Assembly, including abstentions.

Candidate membership can be granted by the General Assembly.

Observer status can only be granted by the General and needs to be renewed every year.

All membership applications must be received by the IFLRY office at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the General Assembly at which the applicant organization wishes their application to be considered. All materials requested by the Bureau must also be provided by this deadline. The IFLRY office will make sure that all these submitted documents will be available to the members at least two (2) weeks before the start of the statutory event at which they have to be considered.

Successful applicants are able to execute their rights after the meeting has closed all membership issues. All changes to the membership will be added to a Membership Register, which is under the responsibility of the Bureau.

### **Article XI. Membership Termination**

The members of the association can leave the association on the following conditions:

- the members of the association can resign by themselves.
- the members of the association can be expelled.

A voluntary resignation by a member needs to be validated by the General Assembly before the member is deregistered.

A motion to expel a member can be submitted by the Bureau or two (2) full members and needs to be submitted six (6) weeks prior to the start of the General Assembly. Such a motion can be submitted if the targeted member organization is suspected of breaching any of the membership obligations.

Members need to be informed about this motion five (5) weeks prior to the start of the statutory event. The Bureau is required to put forward a motion for the expulsion of any member which has retained candidate membership status for four (4) years.

The expulsion from the association is to be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at the General Assembly.

Members that are no longer part of the association have no rights to the financial assets.

#### **Article XII. Membership Suspension**

Membership of the association may be temporarily suspended if the targeted member organization is suspected of breaching any of the membership obligations.

A motion to suspend a member can be submitted by the Bureau or two (2) full members and needs to be submitted three (3) weeks prior to the start of the General Assembly. Members need to be informed about this motion two (2) weeks prior to the start of the statutory event.

The suspension from the association is to be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

Each suspension is valid for a maximum of one (1) year and may be revoked at any time by the relevant statutory body.

#### **Article XIII. Membership Transfer.**

If a member changes its name, or has merged with another organization which is not a member, the membership is not automatically transferred to the new or differently named entity.

Members need to inform the Bureau of any merger with a different organization. The Bureau will decide on the membership status transfer, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.

Members need to inform the Bureau of any name change. The Bureau will decide on the change in the Membership Register, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.

### **C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article XIV. Voting Rights**

Voting rights at the General Assembly shall be exercised by full member organisations according to the following scale of vote:

Organisations with 1 to 500 members 1 vote;  
501 to 1000 members 2 votes;  
1001 to 2500 members 3 votes;  
2501 to 5000 members 4 votes;  
5001 to 10000 members 5 votes and  
more than 10000 members 6 votes.

#### **Article XV. Agenda**

The agenda of each meeting of the General Assembly or an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be agreed upon by the Bureau or, in the case of an Extraordinary General Assembly by those who call the meeting, and shall be announced to all member organisations at least thirty (30) days prior to its convention.



#### **Article XVI. Minutes**

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be entered in the minutes and will be made available to the members no later than thirty (30) days following the adjournment of the General Assembly.

In the case of an Extraordinary General Assembly, no decisions on items not mentioned on the agenda can be taken.

#### **Article XVII. Chairpersons**

The General Assembly shall elect at least four (4) chairpersons to chair the sessions. They shall be persons not standing for other elections.

#### **Article XVIII. Authority**

The General Assembly has the exclusive authority to decide on:

- 1) Full and Regional Membership Applications
- 2) Amendments to the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Manifesto
- 3) Expulsion of member organizations.

### **D. BUREAU**

#### **Article XIX. General**

The Bureau members will be mutually responsible for all its activities.

The President, Secretary General and Treasurer function as the core-three responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Federation.

Newly elected for Vice•Presidents need to communicate their areas of responsibility to the IFLRY Member Organisations after the first Bureau meeting of their terms in office.

#### **Article XX. Term**

The President, the Secretary General and Treasurer are elected for the period of two (2) years until the next General Assembly. The four Vice-Presidents are elected for the period of one (1) year until the next General Assembly. Notwithstanding the right of the General Assembly to put the Bureau on question and to force Bureau Members to resign.

#### **Article XXI. Election Procedure President, Secretary General and Treasurer**

The President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer shall be elected by simple majority vote. In the event none of the candidates to each of these positions receives more than 50% of the votes, there will be additional rounds of voting until the required majority is achieved.

In each of the additional rounds, those who receive the least number of votes, in such a way that even if the votes of those who received less than them could be added to their votes would not change their position, will not participate in the next round.

#### **Article XXII. Election Procedure Vice Presidents**

The vice presidents of the organisation shall be elected as follows:

On each ballot paper the member organisations select the candidates that should be elected as Vice-Presidents in such a way that they mark the names of their choice. Each marked candidate will receive one vote. It is possible to vote for fewer candidates than the number of positions that must be filled. In that case the ballot only needs to be filled out with the names that the member organisation wishes to vote for. The 4 candidates with the most votes are elected in the order of the amount of votes. Only candidates reaching the quorum defined by the following formula are elected:  $1 / (\text{the positions available for election} + 1)$  will be eligible

for election, meaning i.e. that for 4 Vice-President positions the quorum will be  $1 / (4+1) = 20\%$  of the total votes possible. For 3 positions the formula will be  $1 / (3+1) = 25\%$  of the total votes possible. For two (2) positions the quorum will be  $1 / (2+1) = 33,33\%$  of the total votes possible. In case of only one (1) vacant position for a round of election, the principle of simple majority shall be used, as is the case with the positions of President, Secretary General and Treasurer as well.

In case that there are not enough candidates reaching the quorum of the votes, a new round of voting will be held for the remaining place(s).

If there are not enough candidates reaching the quorum in the second round of voting, the position will remain vacant until a new call for elections is issued at the next General Assembly.

If there are more selections on the ballot paper than the number of the Vice-Presidents' positions to be elected, the ballot paper is considered invalid. The ballot will also be invalid if it is not possible to identify the names on the ballot.

If candidates receive an equal number of votes and it remains unclear which candidates shall be elected, then a second round of voting between these candidates is to be conducted using the above mentioned procedure. Should in this second round of voting, an equal number of votes remain, then lots will be drawn to determine the winner.

#### **Article XXIII. Deadlines**

For the Bureau elections those candidacies are valid that were received in writing by the IFLRY office four (4) weeks before the start of the General Assembly.

#### **Article XXIV. Expulsion**

It is the right of a General Assembly, both ordinary and extraordinary, to put the mandate of an elected person in question and to terminate that mandate following a motion of no-confidence with a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

#### **Article XXV. Post-Expulsion Replacement**

Following an expulsion of an elected person it is the right of the General Assembly to immediately elect a replacement. The newly elected Bureau member or auditor will have a period of mandate that expires at the next General Assembly.

#### **Article XXVI. Post-Resignation Replacement**

In case of a resignation of a Bureau member, the Bureau has the power to appoint a replacement in a non-voting capacity until the next General Assembly, provided there is no meeting of the General Assembly in the following thirty (30) days.

#### **Article XXVII. Plan of Action**

Every newly elected Bureau shall draft a Plan of Action for the whole mandate within the next two (2) months after its election. This Plan of Action will be sent to the member organisations no later than these two (2) months after the General Assembly. The Plan of Action will be adopted at the first General Assembly after the General Assembly in which the Bureau is elected.

#### **Article XXVIII. Annual Report**

The Bureau will have to submit for adoption once a year an Annual Report at least two (2) weeks before the start of the General Assembly. An Annual Report outlines the achievements of the organisation in relation to the objectives laid down in the Plan of Action. The Annual Report will be presented by the President.

### **Article XXIX. Bureau Report**

The Bureau is required to submit a written report to the member organisations on its activities two (2) weeks before the start of the General Assembly. This report will reflect the work carried out by each individual Bureau member and will be presented at the General Assembly.

## **E. AUDITORS**

### **Article XXX. Election Procedure**

For the election of auditors the ballot can be filled with one (1) or two (2) names. Each name will count as one (1) vote. It is not possible to give more than one (1) vote to one (1) candidate on each ballot. The two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes shall be elected Auditors.

### **Article XXXI. Auditors Report**

It is the responsibility of the auditors to make their annual report available once a year to the member organisations three (3) weeks before the General Assembly takes place.

## **F. STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Article XXXII. Officers**

The Bureau shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for each committee.

### **Article XXXIII. Membership**

The Committee on Membership shall review each application for membership and report on its findings prior to the consideration of membership status by the GA. In addition, any challenges brought relating to the reported organization size, budget or voting rights shall be first reviewed by this committee before being considered by the GA.

### **Article XXIV. Rules**

The Committee on Rules shall review any proposed amendments to the Statutes or Rules of Procedure prior to their consideration by the GA. In addition, the Committee on Rules shall propose additional rules as necessary covering each GA which shall be adopted immediately following the determination of a quorum at each GA.

### **Article XXXV. Manifesto and Resolutions**

The Committee on Manifesto and Resolutions shall review any proposed resolutions prior to their consideration by the GA. In addition, the Committee shall on an ongoing basis provide a process for reviewing and if necessary amending the Manifesto, and shall review any proposed amendments prior to their consideration by the GA. Not less than every four (4) years, the Committee shall engage MO's directly soliciting proposed amendments to the Manifest through a process the Committee has adopted.

### **Article XXXVI. Committee on Finances**

The Committee on Finances shall review any proposed documents and amendments prior to their consideration by the GA.

## **G. LANGUAGES**

### **Article XXXVII.**

The official languages of the association shall be English, French, and Spanish. In the case that no translation facilities are available the working language will be English.

## **H. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Article XXXVIII.**

The interpretation of these Rules of Procedure shall be subject to the ruling of the General Assembly. Where the Statutes or the Rules of Procedure cannot be applied, the General Assembly decides. In cases of contradiction between the Rules of Procedure and the Statutes of the association, the Statutes take precedence.

### **Article XXXIX.**

Every proposal that aims to change these Rules of Procedure must be submitted to the Secretariat at least eight (8) weeks prior to the General Assembly, or one (1) week after the announcement of an Extraordinary General Assembly. The proposal is adopted, if so decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

All changes to the Rules of Procedure take effect immediately after the end of the General Assembly where they are adopted.

## **I. STANDING ORDERS FOR STATUTORY EVENTS**

### **Article XXXX. Speakers**

The chairperson may announce a list of speakers and with the consent of the General Assembly declare a list closed. The proposer of a motion shall be allowed five (5) minutes to introduce the motion; the proposer of an amendment and subsequent speakers are allowed three (3) minutes. The chairperson may announce a maximum time limit for contributions to the debate.

### **Article XXXXI. Points of Information**

Points of order shall be automatically taken by the chair when raised. Points of information may be taken at the discretion of the speaker.

### **Article XXXXII. Procedural Motions**

The order of procedural motions shall be:

- a. motion to remove the chair
- b. motion to reverse the decision of the chair
- c. motion for the suspension or adjournment of the session
- d. motion to adjourn the item under discussion
- e. motion that the question be now put to a vote
- f. motion for reference back

A two-thirds (2/3) majority shall be required for the removal of the chair.

During the debate on this motion the chair shall be taken by another person. The only speakers allowed on a procedural motion shall be the mover of the motion and the mover of the resolution or amendment, who shall have the right to reply.

### **Article XXXXIII. Roll Call**

A roll call shall be taken if requested. It shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of countries in connection with the vote being undertaken.

**Article XXXIV. Amendments**

In voting on amendments the chair shall normally first hold a vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original motion, then on the amendment next furthest and so on until all amendments have been voted on or one (1) has been accepted.