



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

## Explanation for the Membership Fee Discussion

### **Basic principles:**

- IFLRY membership fees are the only relatively stable source of income for IFLRY, especially needed to (i) support non-EU bureau members to actively engage in IFLRY's day-to-day activities, and (ii) to finance additional office staff;
- Therefore, the intended amount of collected MO fees should remain relatively stable, regardless of the intended changes;
- There should be a fair balance between large and considerably well-off organisations;
- Red tape should be avoided as much as possible - so besides sending out an annual survey and having a basic formula for calculating the fees, we do not want to increase the administration of the MO fee invoicing by creating additional checks, measurements, etc.

### **Membership Fee for Full Member Organizations:**

**Proposal 1:** *Keep same MO fee for full members as current system.*

This is the proposal that has been criticized by a handful of Member Organisations which felt that their contribution and added value did not match their financial commitment. And hence, statutory changes to the membership types have been proposed; however, it worth pointing out that the vast majority of current full members in good-standing have *not* been raising such concerns over the past years. Given the fact that the MO fee income is a vital part of the Federation's cash flow, the Bureau advises the membership to stick with the current system, and to manage the expected upcoming membership changes from there on.

**Proposal 2:** *Organise MO fee for full members based on budget and a similar financial distinction based on the number of members.*

Although this might seems like a more appropriate basis for our budgets, past data shows that MOs with a high number of members have been unable to pay their fees—as well as MOs with very low fees. This proposal would not directly mitigate the challenges faced by these organisations. Additionally, overall it would take away IFLRY's stable income from organisations that have usually been willing *and* able to pay—while increasing the fees disproportionately for a handful of current MOs. Especially for MOs that do not have the 'Western European' way of registering members, becoming a full IFLRY member might become an intimidating financial commitment—and ultimately hurt diversity within the Federation.

### **Membership Fee for Associate Member Organizations:**



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**In both cases, we would introduce a 50% fee for Associate Member Organisations (granted that this form of membership type is accepted during the statutory changes discussion). This is solely based on the respective budget amount of the Membership Fee, as the current statutory proposal also does not differentiate the number of votes for Associate Members—all of the Associates will receive 1 vote as of the current proposal.**

**The minimum and maximum total fees amounts to 50% of the respective amounts for full members.**

**Membership fee for Observer Member Organizations:**

This remains the same.

**Participation Fee & Travel Refunds**

This paragraph has a more concrete proposal on the maximum of the participation fee for statutory meetings, and makes a distinction between granted spots per delegation of organisations in good standing and additional spots. As accommodation at statutory meetings are often a large part of the GA budget, this should be a more appropriate way to balance financial commitments and benefits for both sides.

**Exceptions**

**Reduced Membership Fee applications:**

Add the opportunity to apply for reduced membership for the **ongoing** year to allow for engaged organisations that are facing financial (and often political) instability to remain active within the federation, and not having to wait a full year to ask for financial support through the Solidarity Fund. Each application will of course still be up for approval by the membership.