



## Constitution of the World Futures Studies Federation

(As amended 6 December 1999, 3 July 2008, 6 June 2009, 29 May 2021, adopted by the new WFSF Spring2022).

The participants in the World Futures Studies conferences in Oslo (1967), Kyoto (1970) and Bucharest (1972) founded the World Futures Studies Federation (herein called "Federation") in Paris in 1973. As a professional and learned body, the Federation was designed to promote cooperative participation in discourses and studies of the futures of humanity.

The constitution in its present form was adopted in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1995 and took effect from 31 December 1995. It was amended on 6 December 1999, in Bacolod City, Philippines, then on 3 July 2008, in Trollhättan, Sweden, at the GA in Bollwiller, France, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009, at the virtual GA on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and later adopted by the new WFSF established in Norway 2021/2022.

### 1. Objectives

1.1 The Federation is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization, organized and operating under international law. The main objectives of the Federation are to introduce futures-oriented thinking in all branches of knowledge and action; promote futures studies in general, and in particular encourage, innovative, interdependent and critical thinking across all disciplines, cultures and people; and promote networking between individuals and organizations concerned with futures.

1.2 The Federation shall also work to promote awareness of threatening futures problems and of prospects for better futures, as well as the permanent need for institutionalized futures studies to help resolve these problems and realize better futures.

1.3 The Federation will promote complete liberty of inquiry, discussion and thought in all its activities and in its supportive and cooperative undertakings with other organizations.

### 2. Functions

The Federation fulfils its objectives through the activities of its members, including their professional contributions by:

2.1 Serving as a forum for exchange of information, opinions, and new knowledge in the futures field, as a network of members.

2.2 Stimulating futures-oriented research in academic institutions, government agencies, international and national non-government organizations, and other bodies.

2.3 Planning and carrying out international and regional professional futures research conferences, workshops, consultancies, discourses, and other educational courses.

2.4 Supporting and sponsoring projects and cooperating with national and international futures research institutes and organizations, for common aims and objectives. These functions are achieved by issuing periodic news bulletins, publishing books, bibliographies and conference proceedings and organizing conferences and seminars, expositions, fairs, contests, future studies prizes, and awards. The functions are conducted and managed by the President and the other members of the Executive Board as stated by the Constitution and By-laws, and according to the decisions of the General Assembly.

2.5 National Bodies: The Federation support the establishment of representations of the Federation at national level. The relation between a national body and the WFSF must be regulated through a separate agreement

### **3. Membership and Partnership**

3.1 The Federation offers five categories of membership: Associate Members, Student Members, Individual Members, Institutional Members and Fellows. In addition, it is possible to relate to the Federation as a Partner.

3.2 Individual Members: Individual Members of the Federation are persons active in the general area of futures studies who support the objectives, functions, and activities of the Federation to the best of their abilities. Applications for membership are reviewed by the Executive Board upon receipt of a written application supported by two existing members. Such application shall outline the applicant's credentials, including evidence of experience or interests in futures research activities.

3.3 Student Members: The Federation grants student membership, to those registered for full- or part-time study at a university who have interest in futures studies, in view of promoting and enlarging professional activity in the field of futures studies. Applications for student membership are considered by the Executive Board upon receipt of a written application outlining the applicant's experience or interest in futures activities and including evidence of registration at an institution of higher education.

3.4 Associate Members: Persons who are committed to the purpose and work of the Federation, and who are not eligible to become regular Individual Members, may become Associate Members of the Federation upon payment of the prescribed fee.

3.5 Institutional Members: National non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, learned bodies, schools, colleges and universities, government agencies, research institutions, business corporations, trade unions, religious and cultural bodies, etc. can be granted institutional membership. They are expected to nominate two representatives to serve as liaisons with the Federation. Applications for Institutional membership

are considered by the Executive Board upon receipt of a written application outlining the institution's experience and interest in futures activities. The representatives of the Institutional Members have full rights and duties of Member.

**3.6 Fellows:** Members of the Federation may be nominated as Fellows in recognition of their contributions to the field of futures studies and/or to the work of the Federation, if they are recognized in the futures studies field as active professionals, if they have made an original contribution to the knowledge base of futures studies and if they have been members of the Federation for at least five consecutive years. Applications for fellowship are considered by the Executive Board upon receipt of a written application supported by two existing Fellows and containing a full curriculum vitae. A member cannot nominate itself.

**3.7 Partnerships:** The Federation can establish partnerships with institutions outside the WFSF community. This could be universities, other NGOs, Foundations, Corporates and similar. A partnership should be regulated by a separate agreement and will normally also include a financial contribution beyond the membership fee.

**3.8** The Federation may establish separate sub-units for special purposes, like for instance a WFSF-Academy which aims at strengthening the research activities and educational schemes among the membership. Such sub-units must be regulated through separate agreements.

**3.9** Members can be expelled upon the decision of the General Assembly but must be given an opportunity to explain their case.

**3.10** The Executive Board shall establish the Membership Fees to be paid by each category of Member and the exceptions, if any, to the general rule set out in Section 3.9.

**3.11** To establish or retain membership in good standing, members must pay the yearly Membership Fee each year in the year it is due.

#### **4. Election Committee**

**5.** The GA elects candidates for an Election Committee. The Election Committee consists of three Members. The Election Committee identify and review possible candidates for both the President and the Executive Board, in particular to find a President and a Board that represent a wide range of competencies and relevant profiles. The Election Committee prepare a list of nominees prior to the Election. In addition, every eligible member also may propose possible candidates.

#### **6. General Assembly**

**6.1** The General Assembly consists of all members of the Federation.

6.2 The General Assembly is the main decision-making body of the Federation.

6.3 The General Assembly meets in session at least once every two years and in virtual session as agreed by the constitution or the Executive Board.

6.4 Each General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Federation.

6.5 Each General Assembly is responsible for:

6.5.1 Electing a President and the other members of an Executive Board for four years.

6.5.2 Discussing and approving the reports of the President and the other members of the Executive Board and/or its members.

6.5.3 Approving amendments and changes to the constitution.

6.5.4 Voting on the expulsion of members; and

6.5.5 Making decisions on World Conferences and other major programs of the Federation, based on recommendations from the Executive Board.

6.6 When the members of the Federation meet in a duly constituted General Assembly, whether in a face-to-face session or virtually, a simple majority of those who vote is required to carry all motions and decisions of the General Assembly.

6.7 Decisions and proceedings of the General Assembly must be recorded and published in the official journal or on the website of the Federation.

6.8 General Assembly may decide on and approve by-laws of the Federation.

## **7. President**

7.1 The Federation is represented generally and in all acts of a legal nature by the President.

7.2 The President chairs all meetings of the Executive Board and the General Assembly and opens all other meetings of the Federation.

7.3 Candidates for President may be proposed by any Member but must be chosen from among the Fellows and have the written support of at least ten members. All candidates must present a written statement of how they would fulfil the role of President, including their goals and visions, to the entire membership at least one month before the opening date of the ballot.

7.4 The President and other members of the Executive Board are elected, to serve a term of four years, through secret ballot on behalf of the General Assembly, in virtual session, and the process and election results are to be ratified by the next meeting of the General Assembly in session. The President and other members of the Executive Board can be re-elected for no more than two consecutive terms.

7.5 The President prepares an agenda for meetings of the General Assembly.

7.6 The President may delegate some specific duties of the President to one or more members of the Executive Board.

## **8. Director**

8.1 The Executive Board may appoint and provide resources to a Director, who shall undertake such duties and responsibilities as are assigned by the Executive Board. The Director shall be a voting ex officio member of the Executive Board. He/she shall report to the Executive Board through the President, or any member of the Board designated by the President.

## **9. Executive Board**

9.1 The Executive Board consists of eleven members as follows:

(a) President.

(b) nine other Members, who have been Individual Members of the Federation for at least two consecutive years. Regarding the make-up of the EB, the following shall be non-binding criteria: no more than six of the nine members, other than President, may represent one gender; at least three of the eleven must be from non-OECD\* countries and at least three from OECD countries.

(c) and Director, ex officio.

9.2 The Executive Board is responsible for supervising and conducting the entire work of the Federation within the framework set by the General Assembly between the General Assembly meetings. The Board makes recommendations on major program proposals to the General Assembly and is responsible for carrying out programs accepted by the General Assembly. The Board may be supported in its functions by a secretariat and special committees, and may delegate any of its responsibilities to individual board members as assistant secretaries, financial officers, regional representatives, etc.

9.3 Candidates for positions on the Executive Board other than President may be proposed by any Member but must be chosen from among the members.

9.4 The President and other members of the Executive Board are elected through secret ballot by the General Assembly to serve for a term of four years. The President and the Executive Board can be re-elected for no more than two consecutive terms.

9.5 The Executive Board may elect up to five Vice-Presidents from among the Fellows. Vice-Presidents elected by the EB would automatically become ex-officio voting Executive Board members, as is the Director. The Vice-Presidents work alongside and in agreement with the President as the representatives of the Federation and initiators of Federation relationships especially in the regions thus ensuring the global character of the Federation.

9.6 When a member of the Executive Board is either unable or unwilling to be

actively involved in the work of the Board, then the Executive Board is empowered to co-opt another Member as a replacement, within the terms of 7.1.

9.7 The Executive Board shall appoint a Treasurer from amongst its members.

**10. Dissolution:**

Dissolution of the Federation needs a three-quarters vote of all members. In this case the net assets of the Federation must be transferred to a scientific institution in the field of futures studies.

\*Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.