



**IUHPE**

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR  
HEALTH PROMOTION  
AND EDUCATION

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# IUHPE Constitution

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# International Union for Health Promotion and Education

## Constitution

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 1

##### NAME AND CHARACTER

The name of the Organisation shall be the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (hereinafter referred to as "the IUHPE"). The IUHPE is an independent, international, non governmental, membership organisation. It is free from any party political or religious affiliations, and does not discriminate on grounds of race, ethnicity, gender or religion.

##### STRUCTURE

The governing bodies of the IUHPE are the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees, the Global Executive Committee and Regional Committees. The administrative units are the Headquarters and the Regional Offices.

##### LEGAL DOMICILE

Its legal domicile is fixed in France. It can be transferred by decision of the General Assembly.

#### Article 2

##### MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

###### MISSION

The mission of the IUHPE is to promote global health and to contribute to the achievement of equity in health between and within societies of the world.

The IUHPE fulfils its mission by building and operating an independent, global, professional network of people and institutions to encourage the free exchange of ideas, knowledge, know-how, and experiences, and the development of relevant collaborative projects, both at global and regional levels.

###### GOALS

The IUHPE has three major goals :

- to advocate for health ;
- to improve effectiveness ;
- to build capacity.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The IUHPE will pursue these goals by :

- ◆ advocating for investment in health promotion and health education by governments , intergovernmental organisations, non governmental organisations and the private sector of society ;
- ◆ undertaking activities that contribute to the development of knowledge and practice which further the field of health promotion and health education ;
- ◆ disseminating evidence-based knowledge and practical experience in health promotion and health education ;
- ◆ providing mechanisms for the exchange of ideas, experience and knowledge that promote health ;
- ◆ providing a global forum for mutual support and professional advancement of its members ;
- ◆ building alliances and partnerships amongst all sectors, based on agreed ethical principles, mutual understanding and respect ;
- ◆ strengthening the capacity of the organisation to fulfill its mission.

### **Article 3**

## **PURPOSE AND MEANS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the IUHPE is to fulfill its mission, goals, and objectives as set out in article 2. For this the IUHPE seeks :

- 1) to advocate for actions that promote the health of populations throughout the world by :
  - gathering and presenting the evidence to enable advocacy to be conducted by the organisation on a range of issues of international significance ;
  - providing consultation to governments and organisations about the implementation of effective health promotion policies, strategies, and structures ;
  - assisting countries to develop and improve their national institutions for health promotion and health education ;
  - promoting the development of informed public opinion on matters relating to health.
- 2) to improve and advance the quality and effectiveness of health promotion and health education practice and knowledge by :
  - contributing to the professional development of health promotion and health education practitioners, and to the development of the range, quality and effectiveness of health promotion and health education across the world ;
  - conducting technical activities with a particular focus on synthesising and disseminating information about effective practice across the world.

3) to contribute to the development of capacity in countries to undertake health promotion and health education activity by :

- strengthening the networks of people and institutions involved in health promotion and health education throughout the world, and creating new ones when need arises ;
- developing partnerships that will enable the organisation to increase its active role in health promotion and health education in the international arena ;
- maintaining constant relations with the World Health Organisation, UNESCO, UNICEF, and other international organisations for the advancement of health promotion and health education throughout the world.

## **MEANS**

These actions are pursued by : developing and sustaining networks ; organising periodic international conferences, and regional meetings or seminars ; developing and managing projects in keeping with IUHPE goals and objectives ; producing periodical and other publications ; preparing and publishing position statements on effective practice, training standards and infrastructure development ; and any other appropriate means.

## **Article 4**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The IUHPE comprises the following membership categories :

#### **Trustee Members**

1) Trustee Members are organisations of national scope which are responsible for organising and/or supporting health promotion and health education in their country, state, province, region, or equivalent level.

#### **Institutional Members**

2) Institutional Members are organisations of international, national, subnational or local scope, among whose main purposes is to undertake, teach, research or promote one or more aspects of health promotion and health education, which focus on specific themes, target groups, or settings.

#### **Individual Members**

3) Individual Members are individuals who support the mission, goals, and objectives of the IUHPE.

#### **Honorary Members**

4) An individual or organisation who makes a special contribution to the mission of the IUHPE, or to the development of its goals and objectives may be invited to be an honorary member.

The rights, privileges, and duties of the members are laid down in the Bye-Laws.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 5**

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND ROLE**

The General Assembly is composed of IUHPE members. whose rights, privileges, and duties are laid down in the Bye-Laws.

Ordinary sessions of the General Assembly are convened by the President at a meeting held concurrently with each World Conference. Extraordinary sessions or consultations can be held at the request of the Board of Trustees or of the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly is the ultimate governing body of the IUHPE and is invested with all powers necessary for the furtherance of the IUHPE's aims, in particular :

- a) it decides the policies and the strategic directions of the IUHPE;
- b) it appoints an Honorary President, to advise and serve permanently with the IUHPE, selected from among former Presidents of the IUHPE or personalities whose services to the IUHPE warrant their election to such functions;
- c) it receives for discussion and approval reports on the activities, membership, finances, and any other significant business of the IUHPE, since the previous ordinary and any extraordinary session of the General Assembly ;
- d) it approves amendments to the Constitution as laid down in Article 29 ;
- e) it decides the location of future World Conferences based on the recommendations of the Board of Trustees ;
- f) it completes the agenda it agreed at the outset of the session.

### **Article 6**

#### **VOTING RIGHTS AND PROXIES**

Qualification for voting, and the apportionment of voting powers in the General Assembly is set down in the Bye-Laws. Voting by proxy is authorised.

### **Article 7**

#### **QUORUM AND PROCEDURE**

Deliberations of the General Assembly shall be valid at an ordinary and at an extraordinary session when a quorum of at least ten percent of the members entitled to vote is either present or represented by proxy. Should it be impracticable to reach a quorum within the space of an hour after the General Assembly has convened, the latter shall be adjourned for twenty four hours and the members present at this adjourned meeting shall constitute the quorum regardless of their number.

A consultation by mail shall be valid if a quorum of at least twenty percent of the members reply and vote.

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of votes cast.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Article 8**

#### **COMPOSITION**

The Board of Trustees comprises :

- the President, elected by the Board of Trustees for a term of three years, from among its elected members, at an extraordinary session of the incoming Board of Trustees, immediately following the completion of the election of that Board. A President thus elected shall be eligible to stand for reelection for only one further term.
- the immediate past-President ;
- a maximum of forty global members, elected by the General membership with due consideration given to the reflecting geographical distribution of the members of the IUHPE. They are elected for a term of six years, half of them in principle being elected every three years. At the end of their terms, they are eligible for re-election.
- an accredited representative of each trustee member sitting ex-officio ;
- the Regional Vice-Presidents elected by Regional constituencies as defined by Article 23 ;
- the Regional Directors appointed by Regional constituencies as defined by Article 23 ;
- individuals appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill vacancies in global membership until the next ordinary session of the General Assembly.

### **Article 9**

#### **POWERS**

The Board of Trustees governs and administers the IUHPE on behalf of the General Assembly. In particular:

- a) it elects the global Vice Presidents;
- b) it proposes policies, strategies and work programmes to the General Assembly ;
- c) it reviews, approves and disseminates position statements which clarify and promote the policies of the IUHPE;
- d) it reviews and approves the reports of the Vice Presidents and agrees proposed programmes ;
- e) it considers and approves annual accounts, provisional budgets, financial proposals, and financial reports on past and future activities. It appoints an auditor, and receives the auditor's report on the previous year's accounts ;
- f) it approves the Global and Regional Bye-Laws, and their amendment as laid down in Article 32 ;
- g) it votes on urgent measures undertaken on its behalf by the President ;
- h) it reports to each ordinary session of the General Assembly on the work of the IUHPE since the last ordinary session ;

- i) it screens and selects potential hosts for future World Conferences on the basis of criteria previously established by the Executive Committee ;
- j) it is empowered to fill vacancies among global members of the Board of Trustees and of global members of the Global Executive Committee occurring between meetings of the General Assembly.
- k) it is empowered to terminate the membership of any member who brings the IUHPE into disrepute.

## **Article 10**

### **SESSIONS**

The Board of Trustees meets in ordinary session at least once a year.

An extraordinary session of the Board of Trustees may be held on the initiative of the President or at the request of ten of members of the Board.

The President is authorised to consult the Board of Trustees by other means should s/he judge it impractical to call an extraordinary session.

## **Article 11**

### **VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

Each member of the Board of Trustees shall have a single vote. Voting by proxy is authorised, and is effected by the nomination in writing of another member of the Board to serve as proxy. The number of proxies is limited to five per member of the Board of Trustees.

The number of votes exercised by one single member of the Board of Trustees shall not exceed 7 votes.

## **Article 12**

### **PROCEDURE**

Decisions of the Board of Trustees at an ordinary session shall be valid when a quorum of at least one third of the members is present in person or by electronic visual conferencing or represented in person or by proxy, and at an extraordinary session when a quorum of at least one fourth of the members is present in person or by electronic visual conferencing or represented in person or by proxy.

A consultation by mail shall be valid only if at least half of the members reply.

All decisions shall be taken by a majority of votes cast.

## **GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Article 13**

#### **COMPOSITION**

The Global Executive Committee of the Board comprises the President, Vice-Presidents (Global and Regional).

At its first ordinary session following the General Assembly, the Board elects global Vice-Presidents to hold office until the following meeting of the General Assembly. Following such election by the Board, they are eligible to be reelected to the same office on only one further consecutive occasion.

Their roles and responsibilities are laid down in Article 15 and detailed in Annex B of the Bye-Laws.

### **Article 14**

#### **THE PRESIDENT**

The President presides at all meetings of the Global Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and General Assembly. S/he represents the IUHPE in its relations with other institutions and the authorities of all countries. S/he represents the IUHPE in law and in all civil acts, and ensures the general supervision of the work of the Headquarters, normally by delegation to the Vice President for Coordination, Administration and Membership Services, or to another Vice President, or by other means where appropriate. In the interval between sessions of the General Assembly, and of the Board of Trustees, and of the Executive Committee, or when it is impossible for them to meet owing to exceptional circumstances, the President is authorised to take any urgent measures, including the approval of extraordinary expenditure not included in the budget approved by the Board of Trustees. S/he is responsible for giving an account of such measures at the next meeting of the group(s) in question.

### **Article 15**

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Having been elected by the Board of Trustees, or Regional constituencies, as provided for in Articles 8 and 23, Vice Presidents have functions set out below:

Each Region will be represented by a Vice President who shall represent the Region in all meetings within and outside the IUHPE and ensure the general supervision of the work of the Regional Office.

In addition, the IUHPE shall establish nine positions of Vice President with specific responsibilities in the following areas:

- advocacy (hereinafter ADV)
- capacity building, education and training (hereinafter CBET)
- communications

- conferences (CONF)
- coordination, administration and membership services (hereinafter CAMS)
- finance (hereinafter FIN)
- membership, fund-raising, and marketing (hereinafter MFRM)
- organisation of the World Conference (hereinafter OC)
- scientific and technical development (hereinafter SCI).

The functions of the Vice-Presidents are set out in Annex B of the Bye-Laws. The Board of Trustees may elect additional global Vice Presidents if necessary and allocate them other defined responsibilities.

## **Article 16**

### **FORCE MAJEURE**

Should the President for reasons beyond his/her control such as misadventure or death be prevented from fulfilling his/her duties, the CAMS Vice President will serve in lieu of the President for an interim period ending at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees which elects a new President (Section 17 of the Bye-Laws).

## **Article 17**

### **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Executive Director coordinates and manages the global functions of the IUHPE. S/he is responsible to the Vice President for Coordination, Administration and Membership Services under delegation of the President, for implementing the decisions of the General Assembly, Board of Trustees and Global Executive Committee.

The Executive Director is appointed by the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Her/his responsibilities are detailed in Annex C of the Bye-Laws.

## **Article 18**

### **MEETINGS**

The Global Executive Committee meets in ordinary session at least once a year.

Extraordinary sessions of the Executive Committee shall be held on the initiative of the President or at the request of half of its membership.

The President is authorized to consult the Executive Committee should s/he judge it impractical to call an extraordinary session.

## **REGIONS**

### **Article 19**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT AND BOUNDARIES**

The IUHPE is a unitary organization which may decide to establish Regions to fulfil its mission, goals and objectives

The decision to establish a Region is made by the Board of Trustees on the proposal of an IUHPE member within the proposed region. It requires administrative support which must be identified and guaranteed.

Regional boundaries are determined by the Board of Trustees, having regard to those of the United Nations Agencies (especially the WHO) and taking into account the distribution of the IUHPE's membership and resources

### **Article 20**

#### **REGIONAL GOVERNANCE**

The Region is governed according to the Global Constitution and Bye-Laws of the IUHPE, and specific Regional Bye-Laws approved by the Board of Trustees. A Regional structure must comprise at least a Regional Committee and a Regional Office.

### **Article 21**

#### **COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

The Regional Committee comprises

- the IUHPE President;
- the Regional Vice President, the Regional Director and other Members of the Board of Trustees domiciled within that respective Region;
- additional persons elected from and by the membership within that Region, according to Regional Bye-Laws.

## **Article 22**

### **POWERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

The powers of the Regional Committee are as follows:

- a) it governs the Region in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the IUHPE.
- b) it participates in the formulation of the IUHPE policy, and strategy ;
- c) it approves a Regional programme of work on the recommendation of the Regional Director and oversees its implementation ;
- d) it is authorised to raise funds for its regional activities and to recruit new members ;
- e) it reviews and approves the financial accounts for the previous year and sets a budget for the following year ;
- f) it sets up such committees as it deems necessary to fulfill its tasks ;
- g) it discusses all items on the agenda it has adopted at the outset of its meeting.

## **Article 23**

### **REGIONAL OFFICERS**

The Regional Officers include at least: the Regional Vice President and the Director of the Regional Office (Regional Director).

The Vice President is elected by the membership in the Region, for a term of three years and assumes Office immediately after election. Thus elected, s/he is automatically a member of the Global Board of Trustees and Global Executive Committee. S/he is eligible for re-election to the same office for only one further term. Her/his role is defined in Article 24.

The location of the Regional Office is chosen by the membership in the region. It can be transferred by decision of the Regional Committee.

The Regional Director is appointed by the Regional Committee on behalf of the membership in the Region. Her/his responsibilities are detailed in Article 25 of the Constitution and in Section 36 of the Bye-Laws.

The Regional Director is ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

## **Article 24**

### **THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

S/he represents the Region in all meetings within and outside the IUHPE and ensures the general supervision of the work of the Regional Office.

S/he chairs all meetings of the Regional Committee.

S/he liaises closely with the President of the IUHPE.

## **Article 25**

### **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

S/he

- a) coordinates and manages the Regional functions of the IUHPE ;
- b) is responsible to the Regional Vice-President for implementing the decisionS of the Regional Committee ;
- c) deputises for the Vice President, should the Vice-President be absent or unable to represent the Region ;
- d) is responsible to the Regional Vice-President for the administration and finances of the Region ;
- e) is responsible for communicating plans and policy decisions to the members in the Region and encouraging them to translate decisions into action ;
- f) is responsible for recruiting new members ;
- g) seeks to make regional activities financially self-sufficient.

### **PROPERTY AND FINANCE**

## **Article 26**

### **CIVIL LIABILITY**

The IUHPE is solely responsible, to the exclusion of its members, for all its transactions and engagements.

## **Article 27**

### **PROPERTY**

Subject to the provisions of relevant national and international laws and within the limits laid down by its purpose, the IUHPE acquires, owns, disposes of, and administers any assets as it sees fit. The IUHPE may accept contributions and assistance in any form from members, individuals, public or private bodies, according to specific guidelines laid down in Annex D of the Bye Laws. The IUHPE may accept, as agent or trustee, funds or property in trust or earmarked for particular use provided that such use is within the general scope of the IUHPE's mission, goals, objectives, and powers. The IUHPE may accept any real estate or legacy to its use or benefit.

## **Article 28**

### **FINANCIAL YEAR AND FEES**

The financial year is for the 12 months ending on the 31 December. Each member required to do so must pay an annual membership fee to the IUHPE according to a scale adopted by the Board of Trustees.

If a member without due reason fails to pay her/his due membership fee, the IUHPE shall terminate membership according to the arrangements set out in the Bye-Laws. The Board of Trustees and General Assembly are notified of the termination of any national trustee membership.

## **ARTICLE 29**

### **BYE-LAWS**

The rules for implementing this Constitution are further detailed in the IUHPE Global Bye-Laws and Regional Bye-Laws. The formulation and amendment of the Bye-Laws is the responsibility of the IUHPE Board of Trustees, as noted in Article 9.

## **AMENDMENTS OF THIS CONSTITUTION**

### **Article 30**

This Constitution is the ultimate governing document of the IUHPE. It may only be amended by the General Assembly of the IUHPE.

Proposed changes in the Constitution can only come to the General Assembly with the endorsement of the Board of Trustees. The proposed changes are provided to the members of the General Assembly, in written form, in the working languages of the IUHPE as set down in the Bye-Laws.

This Constitution can be amended only by a 2/3 majority of votes cast, at a properly constituted General Assembly whether meeting in ordinary or extraordinary session, or through a properly constituted consultation by mail, except where a change of legal domicile is concerned. The latter may be decided by a simple majority of votes cast, at a properly constituted General Assembly, or through a properly constituted consultation by mail.

## **DISSOLUTION**

### **Article 31**

The dissolution of the IUHPE can only be decided according to the following process :

1. After consultation with the Global Executive Committee, the President and Vice President CAMS put a proposal for dissolution to the Board of Trustees;
2. An absolute majority of the Board of Trustees votes in favour of a resolution for dissolution to be submitted to the General Assembly;

3. A special resolution for dissolution is submitted to the General Assembly at an ordinary or extraordinary session, or by mail consultation, and must be approved by a two thirds majority of votes cast.

If the General Assembly decides to dissolve the IUHPE, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one or more trustees for the liquidation of the IUHPE's affairs; in the case of a surplus, the IUHPE's net surplus shall be distributed to one or more organisations with similar purposes.

*Adopted by the IUHPE General Assembly on June 14, 2007*



Maurice Mittelmark  
President