



WORLD PEACE COUNCIL RULES AND REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

1. Since its creation in 1949 - 50, the World Peace Council has grown and broadened into a worldwide mass movement. It stands for peace, disarmament and global security; for national independence, economic and social justice and development, for protection of the environment, human rights and cultural heritage; solidarity with and support of those peoples and liberation movements fighting for the independence, sovereignty and integrity of their countries, and against imperialism. National peace organizations and movements associated with the WPC, together with individual supporters of different political persuasions, can be found on all continents and in all regions of the world.
2. The WPC is guided by the words of its Founder President Frederic Joliot-Curie - "Peace is Everybody's Business".

CHAPTER I, PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

3. The WPC is an open, democratic, independent, pluralist and non-aligned international movement of mass action. It is an integral part of the world peace movement and acts in cooperation with other international and national movements.
4. The WPC is a broad coalition of movements and organizations which, on the international level, choose to combine their diverse activities for the achievement of a common goal: the creation and strengthening of a secure and just peace for all the peoples of the world.
5. The WPC is an open and democratic forum for dialogue, cooperation, interaction and mutual assistance among sovereign and independent peace, disarmament, solidarity, humanitarian, ecological, scientific, cultural, religious, labour and other movements and organization, as well as individuals, without any discrimination on ideological, political or other grounds.
6. The WPC has consistently adhered to the main principles and objectives laid down by its founders and is inspired by the UN charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principles of the Non Aligned Movement and the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The principles are:

- Prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction and ending of the arms drive; abolition of foreign military bases; total and universal disarmament under effective international control
- Elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination
- Respect for the right of the peoples to sovereignty and independence, essential for the establishment of peace
- Respect of the territorial integrity of states
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of nations
- Establishment of mutually beneficial trade and cultural relations based on friendship and mutual respect
- Peaceful co-existence between states with different political systems
- Negotiations instead of use of force in the settlement of differences between nations.



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7. The WPC believes that the solution of global security problems is possible by enlarging the popular movement and raising the level of public awareness.
8. The WPC initiates and cooperates in actions to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to reduce conventional arms. It launches new campaigns for the solution of global problems. It also acts in particular for the dissolution of military blocks and pacts; the dismantling of all military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops; for social and economic development, the establishment of a new international economic order, a just solution of the problem of foreign debt; for the recognition of every nation's freedom of choice; for the establishment of a new international information and communication order; in support of the liberation movements; for the settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of respect for the rights of the peoples to self-determination.
9. The WPC cooperates with the United Nations, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO and other UN specialized agencies, special committees and departments; with the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and other inter-governmental bodies.
10. Activities of the WPC are based upon the involvement and contribution of movements and organizations represented in it, which are autonomous and independent entities. The WPC is a genuine movement of international solidarity and mutual support. Public opinion is of key importance in WPC efforts for the achievements of all its principles and objectives.
11. In its activities and structures the WPC pursues the goal of equal participation of men and women.
12. The WPC has developed its own unique character over the years. Its structure conforms to the changing realities; it varies in accordance with different countries and regions.

CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

13. WPC members are national and international movements, organizations and groups, which agree with its main principles and any of its objectives, and pay regular membership fees.
14. Organizations other than those mentioned in Article 13 may become members of the WPC at the discretion of the Executive Committee in consultation with member organizations.
15. National and international organizations that wish to cooperate with the WPC on any of its objectives may become associate members.
16. Distinguished individuals may become honorary members at the discretion of the Executive Committee in consultation with member organizations.



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17. The member organizations have the right to:
- Elect and be elected in accordance with the rules and regulations of the WPC for its bodies;
 - Participate with full capacity in all procedures of the WPC;
 - Make proposals and request clarification on all aspects of WPC activity and receive information in that regard;
 - Request assistance for the implementation of any activity, campaign or specific project;
 - Refer by all means and in public, to its status as WPC member;
18. The member organizations have the duties to:
- Comply with the rules and regulations of the WPC;
 - Contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of the WPC;
 - Pay the obligatory annual membership fee;

CHAPTER III, WPC BODIES

19. The WPC shall have the following bodies: the Assembly, Regional Conferences, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. All activities of the WPC bodies are of an open character.

CHAPTER IV, THE ASSEMBLY

20. The WPC Assembly is the highest body of the WPC. It shall meet regularly every three years.
21. The Assembly is composed of representatives of member organizations. At the Assembly each member organization has one vote.
22. Decisions at the Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority vote if consensus cannot be achieved.
23. The Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Committee. An extraordinary Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Committee or at the request of not less than one third of the total number of member organizations as well as one third of the countries represented in the WPC.
24. The tasks of the Assembly shall be:
- To determine the main guidelines for WPC activities and to approve the auditor's report and the budget for a three-year term;
 - To elect WPC member organizations to the Executive Committee in conformity with Article 29;
 - To elect the WPC President of Honour from among persons who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the WPC and the peace movement as a whole and on the basis of recommendations from WPC member organizations;
 - To examine the WPC Charter (Rules and Regulations) and make any necessary changes;
 - To establish an Auditing or Monitoring Commission;



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CHAPTER V, REGIONAL CONFERENCES (AFRICA; AMERICAS; ASIA AND PACIFIC; EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST)

25. Taking into account specific conditions, Regional Conferences of the WPC are held once a year to review the situation and activities in the region and to work out a joint programme of actions and plans for fund-raising.
26. If consensus cannot be reached, the Regional conference shall take decisions by a simple majority vote.
27. The Regional Conference shall be convened by the Regional Coordinator.
28. The tasks for the Regional Conference shall be:
 - To determine the main guidelines for regional activities, cooperation and assistance for the period of the year
 - To approve the budget for such activities, and to set up the necessary subsidiary bodies and working groups for the implementation of those tasks
 - To elect the Regional Coordinator

CHAPTER VI, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

29. The WPC Executive Committee, composed of representatives of up to 40 member organizations, shall be elected by the Assembly from among WPC member organizations on the basis of proposals made by Regional Conferences, taking due account of an adequate geopolitical representation. In exceptional cases the Executive Committee may co-opt up to 5 additional full members of the Executive Committee.
30. The Executive Committee shall meet according to necessity not less than once a year. Its meetings shall take place by rotation in different regions and is convened by the WPC President.
31. The tasks of the Executive Committee shall be:
 - To coordinate and promote WPC activities and advance the work of member organizations;
 - To coordinate international campaigns, projects and initiatives; and to work out organizational, informative and financial measures for their practical implementation;
 - To develop cooperation with other peace movements and international and regional organizations;
 - To convene the WPC Assembly and to prepare the agenda;
 - To Elect the Secretariat, taking due account of an adequate geopolitical representation;
 - To adopt the WPC annual budget and financial report and to take the necessary steps for fund-raising;
 - To admit WPC members, associate members and honorary members;
 - To elect the WPC President and General-Secretary, and to appoint the WPC Executive-Secretary;
 - To elect the WPC Vice-presidents, up to 3 per region, upon recommendations of the Regional Conferences. The Vice-presidents take special tasks assigned by the Executive Committee, to attain the main objectives of WPC.



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32. The Executive Committee shall elect a representative of one of its member organisations as **President**, for a period until the next regular Assembly. The President chairs the Executive Committee and together with the General-Secretary, ensures the coordination of all organizational work and political activities.

The President represents the WPC in international institutions on the basis of the main guidelines determined by the Assembly and the Executive Committee.

33. The **General-Secretary** is elected by the Executive Committee member organizations for a period until the next regular Assembly. The General-Secretary chairs the Secretariat, and ensures, in cooperation with the President, the coordination of all organizational work and political activities. The General-Secretary is directly responsible for the work and functioning of the Secretariat, internal organizational and financial matters. The General-Secretary represents the WPC in international institutions at different international, regional and national levels on the basis of the main guidelines determined by the Assembly and the Executive Committee.

34. The **WPC Executive-Secretary** should derive from the Organisation of the host country and shall be *ex officio* a full member of the WPC Executive Committee and WPC Secretariat. The Executive-Secretary's tasks are the Coordination of the Secretariat tasks and operational handling of decisions of the Executive Committee and Secretariat, in closed cooperation with the General-Secretary and President.

CHAPTER VII, THE SECRETARIAT

35. The WPC Secretariat shall function as the coordinating and communication body of the WPC between the regular meetings of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat fulfils the tasks entrusted to it by the Assembly and the Executive Committee and reports thereon to them. The Secretariat is convened by the WPC General-Secretary.

36. The Secretariat shall be elected from among the Executive Committee member organisations. Its composition should take into account an adequate geopolitical representation and must not exceed one third of the number of the elected Executive Committee, except when a particular interest is to be achieved.

37. The President, the General-Secretary, the Executive-Secretary and the Regional Coordinators are full members of the WPC Secretariat by definition of their special tasks and responsibilities.

38. Each organization shall have one vote. In the case of the presence of several members coming from the same organization, the organization, not the individuals, holds one vote.



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39. The main tasks for the Secretariat shall be:
- To organize and coordinate the implementation of projects, campaigns, initiatives, etc., of a global character and to render necessary assistance in the implementation of regional, continental, group and national projects;
 - To the organize the informational activities of the WPC and to fulfill the functions of the editorial board of WPC members and other national and international organizations;
 - To facilitate the functioning of the WPC's elected bodies;
 - To be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the WPC central budget;
 - To collect information on the activities of member and other organizations and to make it available in the common interest of all, using networks specially set up for this purpose, such us an interactive website and the Peace Messenger as digital and/or paper publication;
 - To inform public opinion about the goals and activities of the WPC and other peace movements;
 - To collect results of peace-related research work as background material;
 - To produce regular and occasional publications;
 - To keep, maintain and preserve WPC assets and property.
40. In its work the Secretariat shall be assisted by professional and other support staff recruited both internationally and locally within the limits of the allocated budget.

CHAPTER VIII, FINANCES

41. The WPC budget shall be formed by:
- Obligatory annual membership fees, the amount of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee for each category of WPC members, in consultation with member organizations; these fees are subject to subsequent ratification and revision by the Assembly
 - Voluntary donations in cash and in kind from organizations, funds and individuals
 - Money collected through special fund-raising activities.
42. The WPC General-Secretary shall report to the WPC Executive Committee on the annual operating statement and balance sheet as compared to the year's budget estimates, and submit an auditor's report and budget for the next year. The Executive Committee shall report to the Assembly on the state of WPC finances. The annual operating statement, balance sheet and auditor's report shall be made public annually.

Amended and approved in the Assembly of WPC, Caracas 10th April, 2008