



Constitution of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

as approved at the YMCA Extraordinary World Council held on 30 October 2021

ARTICLE I

This Confederation of the national or area bodies representing the Young Men's Christian Associations of their respective nations or areas shall be called The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations ("the World Alliance").

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND OBJECTS

1. The continuing basis of the work and witness of the World Alliance is that adopted in Paris in 1855 by the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations who were then led by God to bring it into being, viz

"The Young Men's Christian Associations seek to unite those young people who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their faith and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom amongst young people."

"Any differences of opinion on other subjects, however important in themselves, shall not interfere with the harmonious relations of the Constituent Members and Associates of the World Alliance."

The Paris Basis has been reaffirmed and contextualised in the subsequent statements known as the Kampala Principles adopted in 1973 and Challenge 21 adopted in 1998. Each member YMCA is therefore called to focus on the challenges, prioritised according to its own context.

2. The enduring objectives of the World Alliance shall be:

- a) to strengthen the work of the Young Men's Christian Associations in all lands in accordance with the Paris Basis;
- b) to make real its unity in Christ in the midst of human diversity;

- c) to help its Members and Associates to develop and adapt their respective programmes to the needs arising out of the conditions in which young people live and work;
- d) to promote the extension of Young Men's Christian Associations to new fields;
- e) to assist the promotion of Christian principles in social and international conduct and relations;
- f) to undertake and sponsor international, humanitarian welfare and relief work on a Christian basis, especially among young people and in times of emergency, without regard to religious, social, political, national or racial differences;
- g) to encourage Members of the Young Men's Christian Associations to participate loyally in the life of their respective churches, to bring these churches closer together, and to participate in efforts to realise the Church Universal;
- h) to develop sympathy, understanding, mutual respect and cooperation, nationally and internationally, among all desiring to enter into the fellowship and activities of the Young Men's Christian Associations.

ARTICLE III DEFINITIONS

1. "World Alliance" or "World YMCA" is the confederation of the Members representing Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCAs) around the world.
2. "World Council" is the regular meeting of Members of the World Alliance being the executive medium through which the World Alliance shall act and for such purpose shall have all the powers in the World Alliance.
3. "Executive Committee" is the Executive Committee of the World Alliance, as described in Article VII, Section 1, of this Constitution.
4. "Officers of the World Alliance" are the President, Deputy President and Treasurer.
5. "Secretary General" is the most senior staff person employed by the World Alliance.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Members of the World Alliance shall be:

1.1 Those national or area Alliances or Federations or Councils or Associations of Young Men's Christian Associations which, at the date of the adoption of this Constitution, are already affiliated to and Members of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and register with the Secretary General duly authenticated copies of their respective resolutions of acceptance of this Constitution together with copies of their respective constitutions, should such constitutions not already have been registered with the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.

1.2 Such other national or area Alliances or Federations or Councils or Associations of Young Men's Christian Associations as may from time to time be elected to Membership by the World Council.

2. An Applicant for Membership (found in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article and referred to as "the Organisation") shall apply in writing to the World Council with:

2.1 a duly authenticated copy of its resolution of acceptance of this Constitution, containing an undertaking to abide by its Articles and Regulations;

2.2 a copy of the constitution of the Organisation;

2.3 evidence, satisfactory to the World Council,

2.3.1 that the work and witness of the Organisation are in accord with the Paris Basis, and other statements or principles, as adopted by the World Council from time to time;

2.3.2 that those in charge of the Organisation are qualified to give the Christian leadership which will enable it to fulfil its mission;

2.3.3 of the standing of the Organisation in the Christian community in its area;

2.3.4 of the autonomy, permanence and stability of the Organisation;

2.4 any other information and particulars as the World Council may from time to time deem necessary.

3. Only one Organisation from any one country may in general be accepted as a Member.

3.1 An application for Membership by any Organisation from a country already represented by a Member shall only be considered by the World Council with the previous consent of that Member.

3.2 The same rules shall apply to the case of an application for Membership by an area Alliance, Federation, Council or Association of Young Men's Christian Associations where such an Organisation already exists in respect of the same area and is a Member of the World Alliance.

4. The World Council shall have the power to elect Associates of the World Alliance, to enable those YMCAs in the process of formation to enter into the fellowship of the World Alliance.

4.1 An applicant for Associateship shall apply in writing to the World Council, shall accept this Constitution and shall provide the World Council with:

4.1.1 a duly authenticated copy of its resolution of acceptance of this Constitution, containing an undertaking to abide by its Articles and Regulations;

4.1.2 a copy of its constitution or such other agreements or relative documents as are available;

4.1.3 evidence that such applicant has been in existence for two years and that its work is conducted in harmony with the spirit, aims and purposes of the Young Men's Christian Associations;

4.1.4 such other information and particulars as the World Council may deem necessary.

4.2 An application for Associateship by an organisation in a country or area already represented by a Member shall only be considered by the World Council with the previous consent of that Member.

4.3 Associates shall have no right to vote.

5. Members and Associates shall with diligence provide the World Council with:

5.1 copies of all amendments made to their constitutions;

5.2 copies of their annual reports and financial statements;

6. Members and Associates shall give due consideration to such recommendations made at meetings of the World Council and committees of the World Alliance and the World Council and at World and Area Conferences.

7. Levies/Subscriptions/Fair Share

7.1 Every Member or Associate shall pay to the World Alliance Office such subscriptions or levies or payments as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee in consultation with Members.

7.2 A full consultative procedure shall be undertaken with Members in setting such subscription, payment or levies.

8. Use of the name “Young Men’s Christian Association”

8.1 It is a term and condition of Membership of the World Alliance that each Member (or other entity specifically authorised by the World Alliance) uses, recognises and acknowledges that it is permitted to use the words “Young Men’s Christian Association” as part of its name only for as long as it remains a Member (or authorised entity). The said words must be used by the authority and licence of the World Alliance.

8.2 If Membership is revoked or if a Member (or authorised entity) for any reason whatsoever ceases to be recognized by the World Alliance, then that Member (or authorised entity) must immediately:

8.2.1 change its name so that it does not contain the words “Young Men’s Christian Association.” This includes any words, initials or abbreviations which would be likely to associate it in any way with the Young Men’s Christian Association movement generally; and

8.2.2 cease to use trademarks, symbols, designs or logos which would be likely to be associated with the World Alliance or the Young Men’s Christian Association movements generally.

9. In the event of an adverse vote by the World Council on an application for Membership or Associateship, the World Council shall be under no obligation to state a reason for any such decision.

10. Suspension and Revocation of Membership

The Membership or the Membership rights, such as:

- entitlement to vote at any meeting of the World Council
- eligibility of a nominee from that Member to the Executive Committee at the time of the election
- entitlement to nominate candidates for election to the Executive Committee
- subsidised attendance at events, including the World Council

of any Member may at any time be suspended or revoked by the Executive Committee if in the opinion of the Executive Committee such Member:

10.1 is not acting in harmony with this Constitution; or

10.2 is acting or is being conducted by its governing body in a manner which may bring itself, or the Young Men's Christian Association Movement generally into disrepute; or

10.3 fails to meet the requirements of the World Council as set down and notified to Members from time to time; or

10.4 is more than one-year overdue with its subscription, levy or similar payment or any instalment thereof.

11. If Membership is suspended or revoked by the Executive Committee the Executive Committee shall immediately forward to that Member written notice of the reasons for such suspension or revocation ("Notice").

11.1 The Member receiving the Notice has 90 days from the date of posting the Notice to notify the World Alliance of its intention to appeal against any suspension or revocation. This notice must be in writing ("Notice of Appeal"). The Notice of Appeal should specify the reasons why the suspension or revocation should be revoked, and full Membership restored.

11.2 If the Member has delivered the Notice of Appeal to the World Alliance in the manner described in paragraph 11.1 then the Executive Committee shall have the matter placed on the agenda of the next World Council Meeting. The World Council's decision will be binding, provided a minimum of two thirds of those present and voting at such meeting pass a resolution in favour of the suspension or revocation.

11.3 The Member will be entitled to attend at its own expense and to address the World Council in support of its “Notice of Appeal”.

12. The Executive Committee shall at any time have the right to reinstate membership.

ARTICLE V

ORGANISATION

The World Alliance shall be organised and function as follows:

There shall be:

1. A World Council, being the executive medium through which the World Alliance shall act and which for such purpose shall have all the powers inherent in the World Alliance.
2. Officers of the World Alliance, who shall also be the Officers of the World Council and shall consist of a President, a Deputy President and a Treasurer.
3. An Executive Committee of the World Alliance.
4. Staff of the World Alliance, consisting of a Secretary General and such other Secretaries and Employees as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

WORLD COUNCIL

1. Composition of the World Council:

The World Council shall consist of:

1.1 Members of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance as defined in Article VII, 1.1

1.2 Representatives from each Member of the World Alliance as defined in Article IV, 1.1 to be appointed on the following scale:

Up to 5,000	Registered Members; 1 Non-voting representative	1 Voting representative
5,001 to 25,000	registered Members	2 Voting representatives
25,001 to 125,000	registered Members	3 Voting representatives
125,001 to 500,000	registered Members	5 Voting representatives
500,001 to 1,000,000	registered Members	7 Voting representatives
Over 1,000,000	registered Members	8 Voting representatives

Such representation should, as far as possible, be composed of voluntary workers and be representative of the various sections of the aggregate Membership. The names of such representatives shall be notified to the World Alliance prior to the World Council. Where more than one Member of the World Alliance exists in any country, the representation shall be based on the aggregate Membership of those organisations, the seats to be divided on a pro rata basis.

1.3 Such honorary life Members as may be appointed by the World Council, with no power to vote.

1.4 The Secretary General of the World Alliance with no power to vote.

1.5 One representative appointed by each Associate of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

2. Functions

The World Council shall act on behalf of the World Alliance to enable the World Alliance to fulfil the purpose and objects defined in Article II of this Constitution, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, in particular:

2.1 To provide leadership, inspiration and motivation, foster the Christian dimension and unity of the Movement, promote fellowship and sharing, review international issues, and give orientation to and strengthen the YMCA Movement.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 The World Council shall meet at least once every four years. An extraordinary meeting shall be held if requested by not less than one fifth of the Members of the World Alliance.
- 3.2 The World Council shall have at least 40 voting representatives, totalling not less than one third of the Members of the World Alliance present at such meeting. No meeting shall proceed unless this minimum requirement is present.
- 3.3 The President or Deputy President of the World Alliance shall chair the meeting of the World Council. A Member of the World Council may instead be nominated to chair such meetings.

4. Business of World Council Meetings

- 4.1 To review the report received from the Secretary General and of the President on behalf of the Executive Committee for the period since the last World Council meeting.
- 4.2 To receive a duly audited balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditure.
- 4.3 To elect the Officers and other Members of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance.
- 4.4 To review proposals and recommendations concerning any matter or policy affecting the World Alliance or YMCA movement generally. Once reviewed, if appropriate adopt such proposals or recommendations with or without amendment.
- 4.5 To consider and adjudicate upon all questions of Membership and Associateship of the World Alliance.
- 4.6 To appoint such committees and their respective chairpersons as necessary.
- 4.7 To attend to any matters which, in the opinion of the President may be expedient.

5. Votes

- 5.1 At any meeting of the World Council voting shall be as defined in Article VI 1.1.

5.2 Voting shall normally be by show of hands. The Presiding Officer shall first ask for those in favour to vote; then those who are opposed; then those who abstain.

5.3 A simple majority of Members present and voting will be sufficient for a decision, except when the motion is to reconsider a decision where a two thirds majority is required.

5.4 The number of abstentions does not affect the result of the vote.

5.5 If there is a tie vote, the proposal is defeated. This does not remove the right of the Presiding Officer to use his/her vote or to abstain if he/she so wishes, but such officer shall have no casting vote.

5.6 A private written ballot may be authorised by the Presiding Officer at his/her discretion or if requested by a majority of the Members present. The result of such a ballot shall determine the resolution of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Composition

1.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of 21 to 23 Members comprised in the following manner :

1.1.1 The Officers of the World Alliance elected by the World Council, each representing different geographic regions.

1.1.2 Eleven individuals elected by the World Council from different geographic regions, with a minimum of four being 30 years of age or under when elected, and a maximum of seven members from a gender.

1.1.3 Presidents of Area Organisations recognised by the World Council.

1.1.4 “The Executive Committee may co-opt :

- up to two external members according to the competencies required for the Executive Committee, without a right to vote.
- and co-optees as stated in Article VII 1.6 if required.”

1.1.5 The Secretary General of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

1.1.6 Immediate Past President of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

1.1.7 Y's Men International Liaison to the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

1.2

1.2.1 The elected Members shall continue as Members of the Executive Committee until the next Committee election at the following regular World Council meeting.

1.2.2 Executive Committee Members shall serve on the Committee for a maximum of three consecutive terms. No Member shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an Officer or as an ordinary Member of the Committee.

1.2.3 The above limitation shall not apply to Members who serve in the capacity of President of an Area Organisation.

1.3 The Executive Committee may appoint temporary Members of the Executive Committee for any particular meeting as substitutes for any Members who are unable to attend such meeting. Notice of a Member's inability to attend must be received in writing and must be addressed to the Secretary General. Substitutes must meet the applicable criteria for nomination as provided in the By-Laws.

1.4 The Executive Committee may appoint Members of the Executive Committee of any subsequent meetings until the next election of the Executive Committee in a World Council Meeting as substitutes for:

1.4.1 any Member of the Executive Committee no longer fulfils the requirements of eligibility; or

1.4.2 any Member of the Executive Committee has given notice of their retirement to the Secretary General

1.5 In case an Executive Committee member falls under Article VII paragraph 1.4.1 or 1.4.2 and leaves the Executive Committee, World Alliance of YMCAs will request nominations from the Member Movements from the same geographical region and the Executive Committee will vote to elect the replacement. Voting by electronic means will be acceptable for the vacancy to be filled as soon as possible.

1.6 If the appointment of a substitute does not fulfil the By-Law requirements referred to in Article VII paragraph 1.3, the Committee may co-opt an additional Member to restore the balance. Co-optees will have full power to vote.

2. Functions of the Executive Committee

- 2.1 To carry out the policy and specific instructions of the World Council, to complete all matters committed to its charge, and to act with all the powers of the World Council (save as provided in Article IV, paragraphs 1 and 2, Article XV and Article XVI).
- 2.2 To monitor the work, finances and personnel of the World Alliance.
- 2.3 To undertake the planning and orientation of World Council meetings.
- 2.4 To undertake such actions and responsibilities as required for the good governance of the World Alliance and as required by the World Alliance or World Council in compliance with the Constitution, resolutions and all proposals of the World Council.
- 2.5 To appoint the Secretary General.
- 2.6 To represent the World Alliance in its relationship with other world organisations or partner organisations.
- 2.7 To issue each year the call for observance by Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the world of the Week of Prayer and World Fellowship.

3. Quorum for Executive Meetings

- 3.1 No meeting shall proceed to transact any business unless there is a quorum. A majority of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum at the meetings.
- 3.2 A simple majority of Members present and voting shall suffice for a decision and each Member present shall be entitled to one vote.
- 3.3 The number of abstentions does not affect the result of the vote.

4. Meetings

- 4.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.
- 4.2 An extraordinary meeting shall be held:
 - 4.2.1 if called by the President; or

4.2.2 if requested by not less than one fifth of the Executive Committee Members.

4.3 Meetings can take place “by electronic means through online platforms” and decisions can be arrived through electronic means like emails, electronic ballots, etc.

5. Code of Conduct and Ethics for the Members of the Executive Committee

5.1 The Executive Committee members will be bound by and shall uphold the Code of Conduct and Ethics for the Members of the Executive Committee as adopted by the World Alliance or Executive Committee from time to time.

5.2 "The Executive Committee members shall perform their duties exclusively on a voluntary (unpaid) basis".

ARTICLE VIII

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an Election Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Elections will take place at the World Council by secret ballot, in accordance with the By-Laws.
3. The process will follow the Rules of Procedure and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX

CONFERENCES

1. The World Council shall convene when appropriate, Conferences for consultation and consideration of conditions affecting its activities and for the making of such recommendations to the Movement as such Conferences may consider advisable.
2. Conferences shall aim at developing the spirit of Christian fellowship among Members and Associates and strengthening the sense of Christian mission of the World Alliance.

ARTICLE X

HEADQUARTERS AND LEGAL STATUS

1. "The country where the Headquarters of the World Alliance situated will be at the discretion of the World Council, at which at least two thirds of the Members present and voting record their votes in favour of any re-location. However, the Executive Committee shall possess the authority to relocate the site of the headquarters within the country wherever they deem necessary."
2. It is intended and hereby declared that the World Alliance shall have corporate existence and therefore acquire the status of a person in accordance with the legal requirements of the country where the World Alliance office is located.
3. The World Alliance of YMCAs is a not for profit organisation registered under the Swiss Law as per article 60 and following of the Civil Code, and registered at the Commercial Register on 8 May 1968 with the IDE CHE-107.025.361

ARTICLE XI

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

1. The funds of the World Alliance shall be supplemented by the contributions and subscriptions of Members and Associates, income from its operations and investments, and bequests, donations and income from any other source.
2. The World Council shall have the right to acquire and hold real and personal property in any part of the world. All such property shall be held in the name of or on trust for the World Alliance.
3. The liability of the World Alliance and the World Council shall be limited to the value of the said funds and property to the exclusion of all individual liability.

ARTICLE XII

JOHN R. MOTT ENDOWMENT FUND

1. A separate and segregated account from all other accounts, known as the John R. Mott Endowment Fund, shall be established in the accounting books of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

2. The use and management of the proceeds and income of the said account shall be entrusted to the World Alliance Executive Committee. This shall include the selection of portfolio manager(s), other investments, specifications, directions, and annual evaluation of results.

3. The following shall apply as to the disposition and use of the capital amount deposited in the John R. Mott Endowment Fund:

3.1 The capital of the John R. Mott must be protected with its initial value of CHF 15,892,428, indexed to the annual rate of inflation as from 31 December 2014. The index linking will only be effected if there are sufficient proceeds in the fund to cover the inflation amount.

3.2 Disbursement from the J R Mott Fund to the World Alliance of YMCAs Operating Budget can be authorized annually by the Executive Committee.

3.3 The Executive Committee shall devise a formula for disbursement of funds with utmost efforts that the actual value of the fund does not fall below 90% of the protected value at any time.

Further disbursement could only be allowed in extraordinary circumstances, subject to approval of 75% of eligible voting members of the World Alliance. This disbursement shall not invade more than 10% of the protected capital in one disbursement and 30% of the protected capital in a five year period.

3.4 The above limitation and procedure of requirements apply for the use of the said amounts as collateral for a loan or by any similar process."

ARTICLE XIII

SIGNATURES BINDING THE WORLD ALLIANCE

The World Alliance and the World Council shall be bound by such signatures of its Officers and members of Staff and in such circumstances as shall be laid down from time to time by the World Council.

ARTICLE XIV

VALIDITY OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

1. The proceedings at any meeting of the World Council or any of the various committees of the World Alliance or World Council shall not be invalidated by any vacancy in the Membership of the body concerned or through notice of such meeting duly dispatched failing to reach any Member of such body.
2. Except for matters referred to in Articles IV, XV and XVI, no decisions and actions of the World Council or the Executive Council will be binding on Members or Associates of the World Alliance until such decision or action has been adopted or confirmed by the individual body concerned.
3. The provisions of this Constitution will not confer on the World Council or the Executive Committee any right to interfere with the domestic affairs of any Member or Associate of the World Alliance.

ARTICLE XV

ALTERATIONS

1. Alterations made to this Constitution shall only be made at a meeting of the World Council. A minimum of two thirds of the Members present and voting will be required to adopt such alterations.
2. Alterations must be put in writing to the World Alliance and circulated to all Members of the World Alliance. This must be done more than ten months prior to the World Council Meeting at which the proposal is to be considered. Failure to do so will render any alterations invalid.

ARTICLE X-VI

DISSOLUTION

1. The World Alliance can only be dissolved at a meeting of the World Council. Dissolution requires at least two-thirds of those Members present and voting at such a meeting to vote in favour of the resolution proposing such dissolution.

2. Proposals for dissolution must be put in writing and given to the Members of the World Alliance by the Secretary General at least ten months prior to the opening session of the World Council at which the resolution will be proposed.

3. The resolution for dissolution must name five of the Members of the World Council to act as trustees (“Trustees”). If the resolution is passed following the requirements set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, the property and funds of the World Alliance shall be transferred to the Trustees to be held by them on trust for five years. If a new world organisation of Young Men’s Christian Associations is in existence or founded before the expiration of the aforementioned five-year period, the Trustees may transfer the property and funds to such organisation. The Trustees must be satisfied that the principles and purposes of such organisations are in harmony with those of the World Alliance. The transfer may be subject to any terms and conditions as the Trustees see fit.

The assets available after dissolution can only be attributed to a legal entity that has the same goal as YMCA, and fulfils the prerequisites of the Geneva Tax exemption. Under no circumstances can any assets be returned to any person be he/she a founder or a donator or a member, nor be used for his/her benefit any way in part or in whole.

4. If no new organisation is in existence or founded during the aforementioned five-year period, the Trustees can convert and realise the property and funds to the best advantage, after taking into account the attendant circumstances and conveniences. The Trustees may distribute the proceeds, less costs and expenses of the dissolution and winding up, to those bodies which the Members of the World Alliance at the date of the resolution for dissolution. These proceeds must be apportioned to reflect the aggregate contributions during the five years immediately preceding the resolution. Once more, this is subject to the provision that only such Members shall receive a share if the Trustees are satisfied that the principles and purposes of such organisations are in harmony with those of the World Alliance

5. After such dissolution no former Member or Associate of the World Alliance or former Member of any of its constituent bodies shall have the right to take any legal action or prefer any claim in any country with regard to any decision or action taken by the Trustees.

ARTICLE XVII

BY-LAWS

1. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to promulgate, amend and adopt By-Laws and Rules of Procedure as necessary. These By-Laws and Procedures must not be inconsistent with the terms and provisos within this Constitution. In the event of any inconsistency the terms of the Constitution shall prevail.
2. The Executive Committee shall forward copies of the By-Laws and of any amendments to all national movements immediately following such changes.

ARTICLE XVII

APPROVED TEXTS

The approved texts of this Constitution shall be the English, French, German and Spanish texts as passed by the World Conference at Paris in 1955 or as subsequently amended by the World Council. The English text shall be decisive in any case of doubt as to the sense, construction, meaning and purport of any article.

The Constitution of the World Alliance of YMCAs was approved by the XXII World Conference in 1955, and amended by the 6th World Council in 1973, the 9th World Council in 1985, the 12th World Council in 1991, the 13th World Council in 1994, the 14th World Council in 1998, the 15th World Council in 2002, the 16th World Council in 2006, and the 17th World Council in 2010, the 18th World Council in 2014, the 19th World Council in 2018 and the Extraordinary World Council held on 30th October 2021.



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By-Laws of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations 2021

(as approved by the Executive Committee, November 2021)

ARTICLE I

WORLD COUNCIL

1. The World Council shall meet at least once every four years.
2. A quorum for the World Council shall be forty voting representatives of the World Council representing not less than one third of the Members of the World Alliance being present at such a meeting. No meeting shall proceed to transact any business unless a quorum is present.
3. The President or Deputy President of the World Alliance, or failing such persons, a Member of the World Council nominated for that purpose by the Executive Committee, shall preside at the meeting of the World Council.
4. The procedures at the World Council shall in general be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure as laid down for World Council meetings or as directed by the Presiding Officer.
5. As far as possible and needed, documents submitted to the World Council shall be available in English, French, German and Spanish.
6. The World Council shall be entitled to appoint a Steering Committee of not less than five Members to:
 - assist the Presiding Officer with regard to procedures;
 - review the process of work in relation to the agenda and time schedule;
 - review all new items of business not included in the agenda. Any such items shall be presented to the World Council at least twenty four hours before the scheduled close of the Council session, and referred to the Steering Committee before a vote may be taken.
7. The agenda and time schedule for the World Council shall be proposed by the Presiding Officer and approved by the World Council.
8. Written notice of the date and venue for a World Council Meeting shall be sent to all Members and Associates at least six months prior to the event.

ARTICLE II EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.
2. A majority of Executive Committee Members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for that meeting.
3. The President or Deputy President of the World Alliance or a Member elected for that purpose shall preside at the meeting.
4. The procedure at a meeting shall in general be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure as laid down for the Executive Committee meeting or as directed by the Presiding Officer.
5. The Executive Committee may appoint Standing Committees and Task Groups to undertake specific functions on its behalf and such committees and task groups shall be accountable to the Executive Committee.
6. The Chairperson of each committee or task group shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
7. Written notice of the date and venue for Executive Committee Meetings shall be issued to all Members at least two months prior to the meeting.
8. Executive Committee meetings may take place in person or electronically through online internet platforms. Voting may take place by emails including electronic ballots.
9. The Executive Committee will inform members annually of the financial performance and work of the World Alliance in the preceding year.
10. The newly elected Executive Committee may co-opt up to two additional external members for the Executive Committee according to the capacity required, examining their competence and skills with non-profit background. The Executive Committee may form a Nomination Committee which may invite nominations from the National Movements and recommend the candidates to the Executive Committee to decide thereon.
11. The tenure of the office of the Area Presidents should be aligned with the tenure of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance.
12. The Election Committee and the Executive Committee must ensure that all members of the Executive Committee including co-opted members must have confirmed their commitment to uphold the Purpose and work to achieve the Objectives set out in Article II, and that they understand their responsibilities, duties and obligations and are able to fulfil them.

ARTICLE III

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Bank accounts in the name of the World Alliance may be opened by the Secretary General and the Executive Secretary for Finances as required.
2. The signing authority for all World Alliance bank transactions (with the exception of the John R. Mott Endowment Fund) shall be as follows:

Cheques and bank transfers not exceeding twenty-five thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 25,000) will be authorised and signed jointly by any two of the following officers and staff:

- Secretary General of the World Alliance;
- Executive Secretary for Finance of the World Alliance;
- Accountant of the World Alliance;
- Secretary of the Finance Department of the World Alliance;
- Treasurer of the World Alliance;
- President of the World Alliance.

Cheques and bank transfers between twenty five thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 25,000) to one hundred and fifty thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 150,000) will be authorised and signed jointly by any two of the following officers and staff:

- Secretary General of the World Alliance ;
- Executive Secretary for Finance of the World Alliance;
- Treasurer of the World Alliance;
- President of the World Alliance.

Cheques and bank transfers exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 150,000) will be authorised and signed by any three of the following officers and staff:

- Secretary General of the World Alliance;
- Executive Secretary for Finance of the World Alliance;
- Treasurer of the World Alliance;
- President of the World Alliance.

3. John R. Mott Endowment Fund. All disbursements of monies from the earnings on the John R. Mott Fund shall be approved by the President and Treasurer of the World Alliance.

No disposition or use of the capital amount other than by means of investment, such as investment in listed bonds and equities, precious metals, currency, or short term deposits, etc., shall be made or affected without the approval of two thirds of the total members of the Executive Committee.

For purposes of cheque signatures and bank transfers, the designated banks shall be instructed as follows:

Cheques and transfers for amounts not exceeding one hundred thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 100,000), shall be authorised and signed jointly by any two of the following officers or staff:

- Secretary for Finance of the World Alliance of YMCAs;
- Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs;
- Treasurer of the World Alliance of YMCAs;
- President of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Cheques and transfers for amounts exceeding one hundred thousand Swiss Francs (CHF 100,000) shall be authorised and signed jointly by three of the above.

All proceeds and income derived from the John R. Mott Endowment Fund intended to be used shall be determined by the World Alliance Executive Committee.

4. Rules for determining the amount of the Annual Disbursement

Terminology	
Measurement date	30 June in the year in question
Protected Capital Amount	the initial value of CHF 15,898,428 indexed to the annual rate of inflation in Switzerland as from 31 December 2014 to the Measurement Date
Fund Market Value	the market value of the investments held in the Fund as at the Measurement Date
Cover Ratio	$\frac{\text{Fund Market Value (expressed as a \%)}}{\text{Protected Capital Amount}}$

5. The annual disbursement for a year will be determined by the Cover Ratio at the Measurement Date for that year, in accordance with the following table.

Cover Ratio (CR)	Annual Disbursement (% of the Protected Capital Amount)
< 90%	Nil
90% - 92.5%	CR - 90
92.5% - 110%	2.5
110%-125%	$2.5 + 0.2 \times (\text{CR} - 110)$
125%-140%	$5.5 + 0.3 \times (\text{CR} - 125)$
>140%	$10.0 + 0.4 \times (\text{CR} - 140)$

ARTICLE IV

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS

1. Role of the President

The President may act as the Presiding Officer or designate another person, preferably the Deputy President. It is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to grant the right to speak and to determine the order of speakers. If the Presiding Officer wishes to participate in the debate he/she shall vacate the Chair in favour of another person, preferably the Deputy President, until the end of that particular item of business. Although the Presiding Officer may not participate in debate without vacating the Chair, he/she may introduce the item for discussion and may take the opportunity to summarise the position at the conclusion of the debate. He/she may alternatively or in addition call upon another person to do so. This may include the Secretary General, another staff person or a consultant.

2. Role of the Secretary General

The Secretary General acts as a Member of the lay bodies (with no vote), with particular responsibility for the preparation and presentation of subjects for consideration and debate, and in a consultancy capacity. Whenever appropriate, he/she is expected to provide information and to participate in the debate. Proposals presented by the Secretary General would require to be endorsed by a Member of the meeting for presentation as a motion.

3. Right to Speak

Only those recognised Members of the Council or the Executive Committee have a right to participate in debate. Other categories of participants may speak at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

4. Motions

Only officially recognised Members of the Council or the Executive Committee may propose or second motions. Normally, these would be presented in verbal form. Whenever appropriate, the Presiding Officer may request that a motion be presented in written form. The Presiding Officer may, with the approval of the proposer of a motion, accept minor editorial amendments to the original motion submitted (thereby alleviating the need for many formal amendments which may attempt to improve the sense of the motion).

5. Debate

The Presiding Officer shall seek to allow different positions and view points to be heard in debate. (It is a normal expectation that no more than one person from any one national movement shall speak on a given subject until those from other countries have been given the opportunity to speak if they so wish.)

If the debate is on a formal motion, the person proposing the motion shall have the right of reply at the end of the debate. Presentations of a motion or right of reply shall normally be limited to a time period. It is expected that contributions to the debate will normally be restricted to three minutes. Content of the contribution from any speaker shall be restricted to the issue in question.

6. Amendments to Formal Motions

Amendments which negate the original motion are not acceptable. When an amendment is proposed and seconded, debate shall be limited to the amendment. The same shall apply to any amendment to an amendment. Only one amendment will be considered at a time. If an amendment is defeated, new amendments with essentially the same intent (at the discretion of the Presiding Officer) are not acceptable.

7. Order of Voting on Formal Motions and/or Amendments

Motions and amendments are voted on in the following order:

- Amendments to the amendment (if any)
- Amendment (if any)
- Original motion with amendment(s) (if any)

If an amendment is successful, the original motion is then amended and a further vote is required.

8. Privileged Motions

These concern only matters of clarification, and should not be used as an attempt to participate in the debate. They include:

- “Points of order” - A Member may make a “point of order” at any time if he/she feels that the rules are not being followed. The Presiding Officer shall then rule on the point of order. His/her decision is final.

“Point of procedure” - A Member may make a “point of procedure” at any time to ask the Presiding Officer to clarify the matter under discussion.

9. “Sense of the Meeting”

The Presiding Officer may use his/her discretion to declare the “sense of the meeting” on a matter under discussion without necessarily calling a vote. If the declaration is challenged, a vote shall be taken.

10. Voting

Article VI, 1, of the World Alliance Constitution defines those who have the right to vote at World Council meetings.

Voting shall normally be by show of hands. The Presiding Officer shall first ask for those in favour to vote; then those who are opposed; then those who abstain.

A private written ballot or electronic voting if available, may be authorised by the Presiding Officer at his/her discretion or if requested by a majority of the Members present.

The result of such a ballot shall determine the resolution of the meeting.

A simple majority of Members present and voting shall suffice for a decision except when the motion is to reconsider a decision where a two thirds majority is required.

The number of abstentions does not affect the result of the vote.

If there is a tie vote, the proposal is defeated. This does not remove the right of the Presiding Officer to use his/her vote or to abstain if he/she so wishes.

11. Adjournment of Debate

The Presiding Officer may declare an adjournment of debate at any time if he/she feels this to be in the interest of the meeting. Members also have the right to propose adjournment of debate.

12. General

The ruling of the Presiding Officer shall normally be accepted as final. Any Member has a right to challenge such rulings, however, and in such case, the issue shall be decided by vote.

Within the limitations of time and circumstances, issues will not be presented for debate by the Council or the Executive Committee without due notice (the formal agenda, once adopted, constitutes such notice), and/or advance circulation of relevant papers or documents.

ARTICLE V

PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prior to the World Council

1.1 At least two years before the World Council meeting the Executive Committee shall initiate a Nominations Process to prepare for the election of the Executive Committee as required by the Constitution of the World Alliance.

1.2 The regional and other representation of the new Executive Committee shall be determined by the outgoing Executive Committee and be based on the national movement Membership within the regions.

1.3 The Executive Committee shall appoint the Chairperson and members of the Election Committee not exceeding seven members. In addition, The President (if not a candidate for election) and the Secretary General shall be ex officio Members of the Election Committee.

1.4 The Election Committee shall undertake the responsibilities as defined under “Election Committee” within these By-Laws.

1.5 The Executive Committee shall provide to the Election Committee sufficient information on the skills, duties, responsibilities and obligations to enable the Election Committee to solicit appropriate candidates for the next Executive Committee.

1.6 Nominations:

- a) will only be received from Member movements of the World Alliance who have fulfilled their obligations;
- b) are not limited to nationals from their own country;
- c) shall be made using the official Nominations Form and be supported with the required documentation. The consent of the nominees and confirmation by their national movement of their active involvement within the YMCA, skills & obligations as notified by the Executive Committee shall be obtained prior to submitting their name;
- d) shall be received by the Chairperson of the Election Committee not less than ten months prior to the World Council.

1.7 The Chairperson will close the list of nominations four months prior to the opening session of the World Council.

1.8 The final list of nominees, with notice of the day and time of the election, will be circulated to all national movements prior to the World Council.

During the World Council

2.1 A time will be designated by the Steering Committee for the presentation of all nominees to the delegates, and to permit the delegates informal time to speak with and question the nominees, etc.

2.2 The Chairperson of the Election Committee will present the report of the Committee during the first Plenary session.

2.3 The time for the election should be set as soon as practically possible.

Elections

5.1 The elections will be conducted in four stages, i.e.

- a) Election of President
- b) Election of Deputy President
- c) Election of Treasurer
- d) Election of the other Members of the Executive Committee

5.2 The election for the position of President shall require more than 50% of the votes cast. Failure to secure this will require a further election between the first two candidates with the greatest number of votes.

5.3 Individuals may be nominated for more than one position.

5.4 The Election will be by secret ballot, using the official ballot forms, and only official delegates from Member national movements holding voting cards will be eligible to vote.

5.5 For the election of other Members of the Executive Committee official delegates may vote for up to 11 nominees, on the basis of one vote per nominee.

5.6 The results of the elections shall be announced by the Chairperson of the Election Committee at the first opportunity following the election, and posted on the official notice boards.

Procedure for Counting the Votes

6.1 Officers:

If an individual has been nominated for more than one post their name will be included for each post but once they have been elected to one post their name will not be considered for the other posts.

6.2 Other Executive Committee Members:

Eleven persons have to be elected to the Executive Committee, having taken into account the following factors:

Youth representation

Gender Balance

Geographical areas

When all the votes have been counted the Election Committee will select:

Eleven individuals elected by the World Council from different geographic regions, with a minimum of four being 30 years of age or under when elected, and a maximum of seven members from a gender.

Note:

All voting papers which are spoiled, or which have more than the required number of votes recorded by region or in total will be considered as invalid and will not be counted.

The composition of the Executive Committee and term of service are as determined by the Constitution of the World Alliance. The geographical representation on the Committee will be determined by the out-going Executive Committee.

Geography

7. The Executive Committee shall determine the representation from the geographical regions for the next Executive Committee.

Africa	2
Asia	2
Europe	2
Latin America	2
Middle East	1
USA	1
Canada	1
Total	11

The Executive Committee shall consist of 21 to 23 Members, comprising 3 Officers, 11 elected Members, 4 Area Presidents, 1 to 2 External Members (optional), Secretary General, Immediate Past President and Y's Men International Liaison.

Election Committee

8.1 The Election Committee shall consist of five-seven Members not including the Secretary General & President who are ex officio members (including the Chairperson) from different regions of the world. All shall be active Members of the YMCA and shall be representative of the YMCA constituency, bearing in mind experience, varying ages and both sexes.

8.2 Members of the Election Committee shall not be eligible for nomination as Members of the World Alliance Executive Committee, unless the nominee relinquishes his/her Membership of the Election Committee prior to consideration being given.

8.3 Within two months of the appointment of the Election Committee the World Alliance shall inform the Member national movements of the appointment of the Election Committee, the names of its Members and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee.

8.4 At least twelve months prior to the World Council the Election Committee shall:

- a) inform the national movements of the elections to be held at the World Council;
- b) invite the Member movements to make nominations for the posts of President, Deputy President, Treasurer and other Members of the Executive Committee;
- c) inform the movements of the criteria to be fulfilled, the duties and responsibilities, skills and obligations of the various posts and the places allocated per geographical area;
- d) provide an outline of the procedure to be followed prior to and during the World Council.
- e) each nominee must have confirmed they understand the responsibilities, duties and obligations and are able to fulfil them and be available for meetings and other activities of the Committee.

8.5 At least six months prior to the World Council the Election Committee shall review the nominations received by that date to confirm that each nominee fulfills the required criteria and what further actions may be required.

8.6 A provisional list of all nominees received and satisfying the criteria shall be sent to the Member national movements at least five months prior to the World Council.

8.7 If the nominations received fail to satisfy the diversity of the movement in terms of geographical representation, youth and gender, the Election Committee shall communicate with the Member movements and seek their co-operation in securing additional nominations.

8.8 The final official list of all nominees standing for election shall be sent to all national movements two months prior to the World Council.

8.9 The Election Committee shall plan for and oversee the preparation of materials and the election procedure for the World Council.

8.10 The Election Committee shall conduct the elections during the World Council.

8.11 The Election Committee shall count the votes cast and prepare the final report on the elections for presentation to the World Council.

9. When preparing the list of nominations the Committee shall endeavour to fulfill the following principles:

- a) that all the regions be included, gender balanced and with a good spread of young people.
- b) that candidates be selected on the strength of their personal qualifications and experience and active involvement in YMCA work;
- c) that nominations be representative of the YMCA constituency, bearing in mind varying ages and sexes;

- d) that individual Members of the Election Committee shall not be eligible for nomination by the committee to serve as a Member of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance, unless the nominee relinquishes his/her Membership of the Election Committee;
- e) candidates can only be nominated if they accept the nomination;
- f) Member movements who nominate candidates from other Member movements shall have approval from the latter movement before submitting the nomination to the Election Committee;
- g) candidates shall have a Christian commitment;
- h) candidates shall be ready to invest proper time in their World Alliance responsibility;
- i) candidates should preferably have a working knowledge of English;
- j) candidates shall not be YMCA professionals.



WORLD YMCA

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