



WIDF - Women International Democratic Federation
FDIM – Federação Democrática Internacional de Mulheres
FDIF – Federation Democratique Internationale des Femmes
FDIM – Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres

STATUTES OF THE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF)

Draft Proposal for the XV Congress

Version approved in SC in Costa da Caparica (Portugal) (4-6 February 2012)

Article 1

(Designation, Nature, Duration and headquarter)

1. The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), founded in Paris, France on December 1st, 1945, is a women's international non-governmental organization, which includes women's and feminists or non feminist organizations around the world without distinction of nationality, religious affiliation, or ethnicity, sexual orientation that struggles for the emancipation of women and peoples, for a society without exploitation and oppression and for world peace; that adheres to the WIDF statutes or are recognized by them.
2. WIDF is a non-profit entity based on its own laws, with an indefinite duration, having consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
3. WIDF's headquarter is located in Brasil, São Paulo, SP, at Rua Guimarães Passos, 422, Vila Mariana, CEP 04107-031, as authorized by Portaria 515 issued by the Ministry of Justice (Brasilia, DF) on 6 March 2007, although it may be established in other countries is decided by the Congress.

Article 2

(Purposes)

1. WIDF aims to develop common actions to:
 - a) Conquer and defend the equality and equity of women's rights in all spheres of economic, political, cultural, social, environmental, legal and family life, eliminating all forms of gender and class discrimination and oppression.
 - b) Activate, enlarge and deepen women's struggle for emancipation, for the right to economic and personal autonomy, for the defense to their rights, their dignity as women, workers, citizens and mothers.
 - c) Combat all kinds of violence against women, whether in family, work and society, fight against female feticide and infanticide, and women's poverty
 - d) Intervene to improve women's status by the recognition and dissemination of their social role and their participation in every levels of decision.
 - e) Promote a critical awareness about the causes of women's discrimination and invisibility and to deepen a feminist approach to the causes of class and gender oppression and to its consequences to women's life.
 - f) Enhance the role and experience of women, thus contributing decisively in the improvement of their living conditions and their social, cultural and political status
 - g) Maintain under scrutiny and continuous evaluation the application and the impacts of women's rights protection in all areas, namely those established by human rights treaties and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



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- h) Contribute to the protection of children's rights, struggling against child labour and promoting visibility of young girls and of all vulnerable and unprotected sectors of the society.
- i) Provide a solidarity support to all women and human beings, victims of domestic and foreign imperialist oppression and aggression, foreign occupation and domination, to all those who suffer any form of discrimination.
- j) Denounce all forms of imperial exploitation that plunder the richness of peoples and nations, destroy the environment, and promote unequal relations between peoples and countries, and deny the access to development and the exercise of women's rights in conditions of equality.
- k) Ensure that the use of means of production, the creation of services and the trading of products, is done in harmony with environmental protection, sustainable development and public health.
- l) Denounce and combat drugs, arms and human beings trafficking, especially women and children with the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation and prostitution, and the sale of organs.
- m) Reach the general disarmament and to demand a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- n) Conquer and defend peace, democracy and rights, social justice, freedom, self-determination, sovereignty and national independence.

2. To achieve these aims, WIDF:

- a) Supports economic, political and social relations between peoples and nations based on respect for self-determination and international law, WIDF specially celebrates the new forms of cooperation and integration for development.
- b) Promotes mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation between women and their organizations at national, regional and international levels.
- c) Stimulates the organization of workshops, conferences, seminars and various forms of, information, debate and training of leaders of national organizations affiliated to WIDF in the various regions.
- d) Cooperates with international and regional non-governmental organizations working towards the same goals.
- e) Calls the attention to and denounces, as appropriate, to Governments, at the United Nations, to regional organizations and world public opinion on the problems related to inequality, discrimination, the violation or lack of protection of women's rights, working together with the decision makers in addressing these fundamental issues for mankind.
- f) Establishes relationships with different national, regional and international organizations working for promoting women's interests and acknowledges their work.
- g) Finds support in the principles of the UN Charter and international law that ensures political and civil, economic, social and cultural rights of people and women which are interrelated and are indivisible
- h) Assumes and empowers all the opportunities as an organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), to bring WIDF vision and position on the main international problems that affect or deny the full exercise of equality for women around the world.



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- i) Supports, follows up and appraises the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- j) Actively participates in the world's anti-imperialist and anti-patriarchal social movement as it represents the interests, analysis and views of women members of WIDF.
- k) Accompanies women's movement in its ideological diversity and experience, establishing its own theoretical frame sustained in its action, wherever it may occur
- l) Highlights and acknowledges the historic and inspiring achievements of women and their presence in the reached progresses in the twentieth century, in the post-war founding moment of WIDF.
- m) Struggles against imperialism, militarism and the monopolies, committing itself to work and contributing towards Peace with existing organizations who share these principles.

Article 3°
(Filiations)

1. All women's organizations and associations and / or a national organization coordinating the work of various organizations and / or women's groups in a given country, can be WIDF members.
2. WIDF's member organizations are autonomous from political parties and they are free to organize activities that meet the needs and conditions of their respective countries. At national level they support cooperation with other nongovernmental and governmental organizations and networks to promote the WIDF objectives.
3. The application for WIDF membership must be submitted in written to national organizations and further to regional offices. It should be endorsed by the information on the activities developed during the previous year by the applicant organization, in addition to the program and Statutes, which shall be in accordance with WIDF Statutes.
4. The responsibility for the admission of new members belongs to the Steering Committee whose decision, is then ratified by the Congress.
5. The affiliation to WIDF is compatible with the adherence to other national, regional or international organizations.
6. The congress, upon the proposal of the steering committee can suspend or disaffiliate an organizations if it:
 - a) Unfulfills or violates the WIDF statutes;
 - b) Extinguishes itself;
 - c) Requests its disaffiliation or suspension.

Article 4
(Rights and Duties)

1. Each affiliated organization is entitled to:
 - a) Participate in decision making process concerning the objectives and activities of WIDF;
 - b) Elect the bodies of the WIDF and be elected for them
 - c) Suspend or withdraw its membership;



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- d) Receive periodical information of all its organs and decisions, namely of the presidency's, vice presidency's and commissions management;
 - e) Receive each year a WIDF income and expenditure report
 - f) Ask to attend WIDF meetings at any level, if the program of the meeting has to do with the interests of the organization or the country.
2. Every member organization must compromise to:
- a) Respect WIDF's rules and contribute actively to the attainment of its objectives;
 - b) Pay their annual membership fees and other obligations established by the Congress;
 - c) Comply with the assumed responsibilities or those accepted as a result of the elections of the bodies or as a proposal or indication of their meetings.

Article 5
(Associated Organizations)

1. An associated member can be any organization, association or national or local women's group that wants to collaborate with WIDF or support any of its objectives.
2. The entity interested in being associated, will forward its appliance to the regional coordination, directly or through a national organization affiliated to WIDF.
3. The associated organizations have the right to participate in WIDF events and activities, but not to vote or be elected in its steering bodies.
4. Do not compromise to pay any fees, although it may contribute voluntarily for the finances of WIDF.

Article 6
(WIDF bodies)

The bodies of the WIDF are:

1. Congress
2. The Steering Committee
3. The Secretariat

Article 7
(Congress)

1. The Congress is WIDF supreme body and has the responsibility to:
 - a) Elaborate WIDF policy and assess its activities since the last Congress. It presents the objectives of the future work.
 - b) Approve the Statutes;
 - c) Approve the internal rules and supplementary resolutions;
 - d) Elect the affiliated organizations that will take part of the steering committee or the secretariat.
 - e) Approve WIDF's financial report and budget and to decide on the use of its assets and financial resources;
 - f) Ratify the decisions of the Steering Committee concerning new members, and the suspensions and disaffiliation of member organizations;
 - g) Set the amount of membership fee.



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2. The Congress meets at least once every four years and it is valid with the attendance of the simple majority of the affiliated organizations.
3. The Congress meets extraordinarily if it is convoked by the two third parts of the affiliated organizations.
4. The Congress decisions are adopted by consensus or by the vote of the simple majority of its affiliated organizations that has attended it. Each affiliated organization has the right to one vote.
5. Observers can be invited as guests to the Congress, decided by the previous Steering Committee.

Article 8
(Steering Committee)

1. The Steering Committee (also assigned as SC) is comprised by the Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons and a set number of up to a maximum of nine national organizations of each geographic region, among which may be the one to which the President and vice-presidents belong to, and that reflect some geographical, generational diversity, the weight of the entities, vulnerable populations, and the different sensitivity diversity.
2. The Steering Committee is the directive body of WIDF between congresses.
3. The Steering Committee meets:
 - a) Once or twice a year ordinarily, and will be valid with a simple majority of its members.
 - b) Extraordinary sessions will be convoked, only by extreme necessity.
4. All the decisions of the SC are adopted by consensus or by vote.
5. The Steering Committee can invite personalities and experts to participate in its works on specific issues, if necessary.
6. The agreements of the Steering Committee and its main resolutions are reported by all possible means and sent to each national organization directly by the President, who may be assisted by the regional coordinators.
7. The Steering Committee shall appoint representatives of WIDF at international entities. If they are not members of the SC they may attend the meetings of the Steering Committee, if it is decided by this body.
8. The Steering Committee constitutes permanent Finance Commission and the permanent Commission of information and communication and can promote the setting up of other permanent or temporary commissions, accordingly to the priority of themes and can appoint any of its members to lead them.
9. The Steering Committee analyzes and agrees upon the annual financial reports of the financial commission and appoints the qualified accountants.
10. The SC analyses and approves the reports of the commission of Information and Communication.
11. The Steering Committee determines the place, date and agenda of the next WIDF congress. It is it's of its competence the preparation of the statutory themes, the rules and procedures issues the financial ones and others arrangements for the organization of the Congresses.
12. The Steering Committee presents proposals for new admissions as well as suspension and disaffiliation of the organizations that Congress must ratify.



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Article 9
(Secretariat)

1. The Secretariat is composed by five members of the Steering Committee, elected at the Congress for the positions of President and Vice presidents.
2. The Secretariat exercises an executive function, in order to implement and ensure the implementation of the agreements of the Steering Committee in the period between their meetings and any other task entrusted by this body.
3. To fulfil with its functions, the Secretariat must:
 - a) Maintain a regular communication and coordination. It shall meet at least once every four months.
 - b) Submit written information to all members of the Steering Committee to report on the results of its meetings.
 - c) Convene, prepare and conduct meetings of the Steering Committee.
 - d) Be responsible for the custody and protection of all relevant documents resulting from the bodies meetings and from any event or activity undertaken in compliance with the agreement of those bodies.
 - e) Control, in conjunction with the Finance Commission, the use and execution of the financial resources of WIDF and prepares reports for the Steering Committee.
 - f) To get, together with the Permanent Information and Communication Commission, the digital or printed contents of WIDF and prepares reports for the Steering Committee.
 - g) Maintain regional coordinators informed, through regional workshops and its meetings.
 - h) Keep a flow of communication with regional coordinators regarding its conclusions

Article 10
(Election of the Steering bodies)

1. Candidacy and all electoral procedures are to be defined by a regulation approved in the Congress.
2. The WIDF steering body is comprised taken into account the grassroots organizations affiliated to it, therefore:
 - a) Those entitled for the posts are not individuals,
 - b) The rules for the candidacy and the rest of the electoral procedures, should guarantee that all regions will be equally represented to occupy a post in the leadership positions
 - c) Each geographical region on equal conditions, will propose an organization to take part in the candidacy as president or vice-president.

Article 11
(The President)

1. The President is elected by the Congress, for a four years mandate, she can only be re-elected once. Exceptionally, she can be elected for a third mandate.
2. The President is responsible for:



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- a) The organization, implementation and control of the activities and the orientations, as well as the WIDF resolutions defined by Congress
 - b) Guiding the work of the Steering Committee in close relationship with the vice presidents to whom she will rely, designating permanent and measurable tasks for which they will respond before the Steering Committee, as well as other temporarily additional tasks, according to the necessities.
 - c) The coordination of the functioning of the Steering Committee and oversees the implementation of the agreements assigned to each member.
 - d) Maintaining close links with the organizations that coordinate the Regional Offices, sharing the subjects that require guidance and keeps providing care to affiliated organizations.
 - e) Represents the Federation, particularly before the international entities to which the organization is accredited, and to do so the President may be assisted by one or more vice-presidents.
3. In the event that the President is unable to complete her mandate, the elected organization assigns a substitute who should be ratified by the Steering Committee.
 4. In the case the organization do not have another candidate with equal conditions, then, the Steering Committee will appoint one of the Vice Presidents as President, till next Congress.

Article 12
(Vice-Presidents of the WIDF)

1. Vice Presidents are elected by the Congress of the WIDF for a four years mandate. They can only be re-elected once. Exceptionally, each one can be elected for a third mandate.
2. They are mandated by the President for specific tasks and collaborate with her to promote WIDF orientations. They work together with the President to implement the resolutions of the Steering Committee by its members and regional offices.
3. In the absence of the President one of the Vice Presidents may replace her.
4. If one of the Vice- Presidents were unable to fulfil her mandate, the elected organization assigns another candidate who should be ratified in the Steering Committee.
5. If there is not a similar proposal, the Steering Committee appoints, if necessary, another Vice President from the same region until next Congress.

Article 13
(Regional Structure - Composition and coordination)

1. The Regional Offices play an important direct role of coordination and liaison with each national organization in each region in order to assist the Steering Committee and the Secretariat in the dissemination and implementation of the agreements of the steering bodies.
2. The organization that coordinates a region is chosen among those that integrate the Steering Committee, where it represents its national organization and the whole region.
3. It adopts measures for the attention and coordination with national organizations, in correspondence with the Congress and the Steering Committee's agreements and the guidelines of the President, adapting them to the characteristics and specific problems of each region, and to women priorities regarding their conditions and requirements to promote their rights.



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4. The Regional Office chooses its coordinator and, according to the conditions of the organization that assumes the coordination, other positions are appointed permanently, to respond to financial issues, to follow-up requests for affiliation, to assess the organizations participation in monitoring the decisions of the Steering Committee and Congress.
5. The organization that assumes the regional coordination may be assisted by members of the Steering Committee of the region, in order to enhance the possibilities for coordination with all regional organizations.
6. Sub-regional joints can be created, if necessary, by the geographic region for maintaining a more direct and systematic link.
7. Regional offices can call meetings, events, training courses, provided in correspondence with the objectives of WIDF and decisions of the Congress Steering Committee, taking into account the specificities and needs of the region.
8. Regional Offices will monthly report information to the Secretariat about major regional activities and those reported by national organizations.
9. Regional Offices will report information about their programmed activities and their results face the SC and the secretariat.
10. The Coordinators of the Regional Offices may attend the meetings of the Secretariat

Article 14
(Permanent Finance Commission)

1. WIDF resources come from:
 - a) Annual fees of its affiliates and other voluntary contributions from member and associated organizations;
 - b) A minimum membership fee redefined in each Congress;
 - c) The incomes resulting from campaigns to promote financing, as well as other financial activities organized by WIDF or on behalf of it, by affiliated and associated organizations;
 - d) Specific obtained funding to implement cooperation projects related to the objectives and content of WIDF;
 - e) Donations;
 - f) From the grants of national and international bodies maintaining the WIDF 's independent principles and purposes.
2. The Finance Commission reports information on each of the Steering Committees based in the reports of each of the Regional Offices and the Secretariat.

Article 15
(Permanent Information and Communication Commission)

1. The Steering Committee shall constitute a Permanent Commission to design, elaborate and divulge the WIDF's main activities This Commission will annually report to the Steering Committee on the content and results of its activity.
2. The Permanent Information and Communication Commission articulates with the President and the Secretariat to develop a periodical digital or printed communication in several languages to provide updated information to all affiliated organizations about Congress decisions, results of the Steering Committees and other solidarity activities or thematic discussions.
3. The President, as well as Vice-presidents, the Steering Committee and the Regional Offices, must promote activities, according to their possibilities and resources to



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systematically divulge WIDF's activities in each steering or coordination level, as well as in the national level.

Article 16

(Assets)

1. WIDF assets include its movable and immovable assets
2. Norms and procedures for asset management are subject to specific regulation

Article 17

(Symbol and flag)

1. The symbols of WIDF are:
The flag, the insignia and the hymn
2. The flag is rectangular, having a white background and a blue symbol. The symbol is a Dove with stylized leaves and the acronyms WIDF and the full designation in Portuguese, Spanish, English and Arabic
3. The flag is the symbol of struggle for the emancipation of women all over the world
4. The hymn expresses the will and the relentless struggle of women across the world.

Article 18

(Dissolution)

1. WIDF, cannot be dissolved except by a resolution of Congress and if two thirds of the affiliated organizations adopted this resolution.
2. The Steering Committee convenes a consultation meeting on the subject six months before the Congress.
3. In case of dissolution of WIDF, its property will be used for social purposes.

Article 19

(Changes In The Statutes)

Any change or amendment or addition to the Statutes, must be submitted to the Steering Committee at least two months before the Congress. Changes proposed and adopted by the SC should be sent to the national organizations one month before the Congress.

Article 20

(Application)

1. The WIDF's Statutes take effect after being approved by a simple majority of the participants to the Congress with voting rights.
2. These Statutes take effect from April 8th, 2012. It is based on what was adopted in the Women's International Democratic Federation Congress and the introduced amendments in Brasilia, Brazil, in April 2012.