

# Statutes of the Association

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IFSJ – International Federation for Sustainability and Justice – Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Development and Innovation

## §1 Name, Registered Office, and Scope of Activities

1. The Association bears the name “IFSJ – International Federation for Sustainability and Justice – Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Development and Innovation” (IFSJ).  
For the record, the Association was formerly known as “EUROWIF Europaeisches Institut für Wirtschaftsförderung” (German) and “EIED European Institute for Economic Development” (English).
2. It is a non-profit association within the meaning of the Austrian Associations Act 2002.
3. The Association has its registered office in Vienna, Austria.
4. The Association’s activities extend to Austria and abroad. International branches, representations, or working groups may be established by resolution of the Board.
5. The Association may use abbreviations or working names for projects or bodies (e.g., “CCGA – Concord Council for Global Affairs”).

## §2 Purpose of the Association

The Association, which does not pursue profit, pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes in the sense of promoting:

- sustainable development
- innovation in economy, environment, and society
- international cooperation and dialogue formats
- scientific, educational, and policy-supporting work on global challenges

The Association aligns its activities with the goals of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda / Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considers its relationship within the framework of consultative status with ECOSOC.

## §3 Activities to Achieve the Association’s Purpose

To achieve its objectives, the Association may carry out in particular:

1. Non-material activities:
  - Conferences, workshops, trainings, roundtables, delegation visits
  - Side events at international conferences (including UN events, where permitted)
  - Preparation and publication of studies, policy briefs, white papers, statements
  - Knowledge and networking platforms (digital/physical)
  - Cooperation with universities, international organizations, companies, and authorities
2. Supporting / revenue-generating activities (mission-related, not profit-oriented):
  - Membership fees, contributions, donations, sponsorships
  - Cost-sharing for trainings, delegation programs, or events
  - Paid services (e.g., moderation, consultancy, studies) within the scope of the Association’s purpose

- Grants, project funds, allocations from national and international funding programs

All funds of the Association may only be used for statutory, charitable purposes. No person may be favored by expenses unrelated to the Association's purpose or disproportionately high remuneration.

#### **§4 Types of Membership**

The Association has the following membership categories:

1. Founding Members – individuals or legal entities who established the Association or were confirmed as such by the Board; voting rights as per §11.
2. Regular Members – individuals or legal entities who actively support the purpose; voting rights as per §9(5).
3. Delegate Members – individuals participating in international delegation or expert programs; no automatic voting rights.
4. Advisory Members – experts contributing (e.g., on the Advisory Council, CCGA); no voting rights.
5. Supporting Members / Sponsors / Institutional Partners – financial or in-kind supporters; no voting rights.
6. Honorary Members – appointed for special merits; exempt from fees; no voting right unless also Regular or Founding Members.

#### **§5 Acquisition of Membership**

1. Any legally competent natural or legal person may become a member.
2. The application must be submitted in writing or electronically to the Board.
3. Admission is decided by the Board at its discretion; rejection does not require justification.
4. The status of "Founding Member" may only be granted by Board resolution with the unanimous consent of all existing Founding Members.
5. Honorary Members are appointed by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Board.

#### **§6 Termination of Membership**

1. Membership ends by death (or, for legal entities, loss of legal personality), voluntary resignation, exclusion, or deletion.
2. Resignation is possible at any time; it becomes effective upon receipt of the written declaration by the Board. Contributions already due remain payable.
3. The Board may delete members if contributions remain outstanding despite reminders.
4. The Board may exclude members if they seriously violate the Association's interests or Code of Honor, damage the Association, or endanger its ECOSOC status.
5. An appeal against exclusion may be submitted in writing to the General Assembly within four weeks; membership rights are suspended until the decision.

#### **§7 Rights and Obligations of Members**

Rights:

- Participation in Association events within the respective membership category

- Access to information, publications, and programs
- Application to participate in delegations (no guarantee; Board decides)
- Use of the designation “Member of IFSJ – ECOSOC Consultative NGO”, unless prohibited

Obligations:

- Support of the Association’s objectives
- Safeguarding of reputation, neutrality, and confidentiality
- Compliance with statutes, resolutions, and the Code of Honor
- Timely payment of membership/support contributions (if applicable)
- Maintenance of accurate records regarding their involvement in UN-related activities where relevant

## **§8 Organs of the Association**

1. General Assembly
2. Board
3. Auditors
4. (optional) Executive Office / Secretariat
5. (optional) Advisory Council / CCGA
6. Arbitration Tribunal pursuant to §15

## **§9 General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Association, unless special rights are reserved for the Founding Members (§11).
2. An Ordinary General Assembly shall take place at least every two years.
3. Extraordinary General Assemblies must be convened within three months if decided by the Board, requested by at least one-tenth of voting members, demanded by the auditors, or required by law.
4. Invitations shall be sent in writing (e-mail sufficient), stating the agenda at least two weeks in advance.
5. Voting rights: Founding Members always have voting rights. Regular Members may be granted voting rights by the Board (generally or on a case-by-case basis). All other categories have no voting rights.
6. Requirements for valid resolutions: simple majority for standard resolutions; two-thirds majority for amendments and dissolution; the President decides in the event of a tie.
7. Quorum: presence of at least one-third of voting members; otherwise, after 30 minutes, the Assembly is deemed quorate (except §16).
8. Minutes shall be kept by the President or a person designated by the President.
9. Mandatory tasks:
  - o Approval of the annual report and financial statement
  - o Election/discharge of the Board
  - o Election/dismissal of the auditors
  - o Resolutions on amendments to the statutes
  - o Resolution on dissolution
  - o Approval of budgets / major investments

## **§10 Board**

1. The Board is the governing body of the Association.

2. It consists at minimum of: President, Vice-President, Treasurer. Optional: Secretary-General, Program Director, co-opted members.
3. Term of office: until the next election (maximum 5 years recommended); re-election is permitted.
4. Co-optation: if a Board member leaves, the Board may co-opt a replacement until the next General Assembly.
5. External representation: the President alone; otherwise jointly with another Board member. Financial obligations above a threshold defined in the Rules of Procedure require the Treasurer's co-signature.
6. Responsibilities: day-to-day management; admission/exclusion of members; preparation of the General Assembly; annual report; delegations; establishment of working groups, advisory bodies, CCGA.
7. The Board has a quorum if all members were invited and at least half are present. Resolutions are passed by simple majority of valid votes; in the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.
8. The Board is responsible for ensuring compliance with ECOSOC obligations, including the preparation and submission of quadrennial reports to the UN NGO Branch, as well as maintaining records of UN participation.
9. Board members must disclose potential conflicts of interest and refrain from decision-making where impartiality may be compromised.

### **§11 Special Rights of Founding Members (Founders' Clause)**

1. Amendments to the statutes, dissolution, and admission of new voting Founding Members require the unanimous consent of all existing Founding Members.
2. Only persons nominated by the Founding Members may be elected or co-opted as President, Vice-President, or Treasurer.
3. Right of veto: each Founding Member may, within 14 days after a Board decision, submit a written veto against the following resolutions: admission/exclusion of voting members; transfers of assets above a threshold; long-term commitments. The veto annuls the resolution; the matter is referred to the next General Assembly.
4. These rights may be rescinded only by unanimous decision of all Founding Members.

### **§12 Advisory Council / CCGA**

1. The Board may establish an advisory body ("Advisory Council"); its international premium format may operate under the name "CCGA – Concord Council for Global Affairs".
2. Members: invited personalities from diplomacy, business, academia, innovation, and sustainability.
3. Tasks: providing advice and networks; contributing to publications/panels; supporting delegations and positioning.
4. No voting rights; no legal entitlement.
5. Appointment and revocation are at any time at the discretion of the Board.

### **§13 Auditors**

1. The General Assembly elects two auditors (not members of the Board).
2. The auditors examine the financial management and the annual accounts and report to the General Assembly.
3. The auditors' term is three years; re-election is permitted.

#### **§14 Executive Office / Secretariat (optional)**

1. The Board may appoint an Executive Office or Secretariat to support operations.
2. Duties and powers are defined by Board resolution.
3. Signing authority is valid only within the scope of a written authorization.

#### **§15 Arbitration Tribunal**

1. An Arbitration Tribunal is established to resolve internal disputes.
2. Each party shall nominate one arbitrator within 14 days; these two shall select a third member to serve as chair.
3. If no agreement is reached, the chair is chosen by lot from a pool maintained by the Board.
4. The decision is final within the Association; recourse to regular courts remains unaffected.

#### **§16 Voluntary Dissolution / Allocation of Assets**

1. Dissolution may only be resolved in a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose.
2. Required: a three-quarters majority of votes cast AND the consent of all Founding Members.
3. Liquidators shall be appointed.
4. After settlement of all liabilities, the assets shall be used exclusively for charitable purposes in accordance with the Association's purpose (preferably to an organization with a similar objective).

#### **§17 Final Provisions**

The Association acknowledges its legal continuity with the entity formerly registered as EUROWIF Europäisches Institut für Wirtschaftsförderung (German) / EIED European Institute for Economic Development (English).

1. Where these statutes contain no rules, the Austrian Associations Act applies.
2. Translated versions serve for information and international use; the English and German versions are considered equally valid.
3. Transitional rule: until the first Ordinary General Assembly, the Founding Board conducts business with all rights pursuant to §11.