

## Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw

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# Don Bosco Youth-Net Statutes

## I. Description – Registration - Duration

Art. 1 Following Title III of the Belgian law of June 27<sup>th</sup> 1921 concerning the non-profit associations, the international non-profit associations and the corporations, an international non-profit association (IVZW) has been founded, with the name Don Bosco Youth-Net, abbreviation DBYN.

Art. 2 The main seat of DBYN is registered at Don Boscolaan 15, B-3050 Oud-Heverlee. This main seat can be transferred to any other location in Belgium, following a decision of the Administrative Body. Every transfer shall be published in 'Het Belgisch Staatsblad / Le Moniteur Belge' during the month that follows this decision and will be notified to the Federal Government of Justice.

The IVZW can always open seats in other places and other countries, following a decision of the General Executive Body.

Art. 3 The IVZW is founded for an indefinite period.

## II Goals

Art. 4 The pedagogical, philanthropical and social non-profit goals of the IVZW are:

§1 To bring together young people from Europe and across the world, so they can participate in youth activities based on the heritage of Don Bosco. By organising international activities in the social, cultural, pedagogical and spiritual field, the IVZW wants to contribute to the total development of youngsters. With this, the IVZW wants to broaden the chances of youngsters who, for various reasons, have been excluded from this kind of activities.

§2 To coordinate international activities, organised by one of the members of the IVZW. By exchanging information and/or organising (specific) activities, the IVZW tries to facilitate the contact between the different members of the IVZW and to create a profound mutual understanding.

§3 To represent the voice of the Don Bosco Youth, via the members and to defend their interests at international level.

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### III Members of the IVZW, appointment, dismissal and exclusion

Art. 5 The number of members of the IVZW has to be at least 6, of which 50% are organisations operating under Art. 7, §2.

Art. 6 The number of countries, represented in the IVZW, has to be at least 6. A member represents the country in which the main seat of the Organisation is registered.

Art 7 The members of the IVZW need to be legal bodies, founded according to the laws of the State of origin. The members of the IVZW are:

§1 The founding Organisations of the IVZW; represented by a physical person who has the written mandate of the Organisation.

§2 Organisations:

- who work in a Don Bosco style
- who are represented by a physical person who has the written mandate of the Organisation
- who subscribe these statutes and the rules and regulations
- whose membership is accepted by the General Executive Body

§3 The religious Salesian provinces, represented by a provincial or an other representative,

- who subscribe these statutes and the rules and regulations
- whose membership is accepted by the General Executive Body.

Art. 8 A membership application must be sent to the Administrative Body by registered mail. The decision about the application shall be made at the first meeting of the General Executive Body after the Administrative Body has received the application, only if there is a month's period in-between the gathering of the General Executive Body and the receiving of the application. In all other cases, the decision will be made at the next General Executive Body meeting. Applicants can present their application to the General Executive Body where the decision will be made. They therefore receive an invitation of the President.

Art. 9 The General Executive Body can reject an application:

- if the goals of the applying Organisation are incompatible with these statutes or
- if the Organisation or Salesian province does not comply with the conditions for membership as written down in art 7§2 or art 7§3 of this statutes.

There must be a period of at least one year in-between the rejection of an application and the submission of a new application.

Art. 10 Any member can be represented by another member by giving this member authorization. Each authorization of this kind has to be written. No physical person can represent more than two Organisations (his own and one who gave him written authorization).

Art. 11 End of membership

§1 In principle, members get their membership for an indefinite period.

§2 Under some circumstances it is possible to exclude a member from the IVZW:

- when a member does not longer comply with the conditions for membership as written down in art 7§2 or art 7§3 of this statutes.

The exclusion is pronounced by the General Executive Body, on proposal of the Administrative Body. Before being excluded, the member has the right to be heard by or to defend himself at the General Executive Body. The vote following this is secret. Members who have been excluded can no longer assert their rights in the active IVZW.

§3 A member can resign his membership at any time.

Art. 12 The General Executive Body pronounces, on proposal of the Administrative Body, the appointment and dismissal of members. These decisions are made by a regular majority of the votes. Therefore, two thirds of the members have to be present or represented by a written authorization. Moreover, to have a legitimate vote, two thirds of the countries that are represented in the IVZW, have to be represented by the present members.

When one of these conditions is not fulfilled, a second General Executive Body has to be arranged. Then the General Executive Body will vote legitimately, regardless of the number of members that are present or represented by written authorization and regardless of the number of countries that are represented.

Art 13. The vote

Every member has one vote, unless there is more than one member representing the same country. Members representing the same country can only give one vote together. Therefore they confer on the matter amongst themselves. If the different Organisations of the same Country cannot come to a consensus on a voting issue, they are obliged to hold an internal vote among themselves. The decision of that internal vote is the decision that is carried to the General Executive Body. If the internal vote is a tie, then the Country will abstain from voting in the General Executive Body on that particular voting issue.

## IV Structures

Art. 14 The IVZW is composed of:

- The General Executive Body
- The Administrative Body
- The President

## Section 1: The General Executive Body

Art. 15 The General Executive Body is the decision making Body of the IVZW, which assembles at least once a year.

Art. 16 The members of the General Executive Body are:

- The physical persons representing a member and
- The president

Art. 17 The General Executive Body is composed legitimately if half plus one of the members, as meant in art. 16 of these statutes, are present or represented by a written authorization. Moreover, half plus one of the countries represented in the IVZW must be represented by the present members. When this quorum isn't reached, the President has to call for another General Executive Body, within three months after the first assembly. Then the General Executive Body will vote legitimately, regardless of the number of members that are present or represented by written authorization and regardless of the number of countries that are represented.

Art. 18 The decisions of the General Executive Body are made by a regular majority of the votes, except for those cases in which the law or these statutes require another procedure. In the case of equal number of votes, the vote of the President is decisive.

Art. 19 Elections and exclusions of members and of members of the Administrative Body are made by a secret vote.

Art. 20 The General Executive Body has the following authority;

- §1 To admit new members
- §2 To exclude members
- §3 To approve the report of past activities
- §4 To formulate policy plans for the IVZW
- §5 To approve the budget and the financial year report
- §6 To elect or to dismiss members of the Administrative Body
- §7 To change the statutes
- §8 To pronounce the voluntary dissolution of the IVZW
- § 9 To discharge the members of the Administrative Body

Art 21 The official reports of the deliberations of the General Executive Body are written down in a register and signed by the President, and kept by the secretary at the main seat, and are available to the members of the IVZW.

## Section 2: The Administrative Body

Art. 22 The Administrative Body is composed of at least 4 members, representing just as much different countries.

Art. 23 The members of the Administrative Body are elected by the General Executive Body for a period of three years. The mandates can be renewed.

The mandate of the Administrative Body ends after a term of three years or if half of the members have given their resignation to the President. Dissolution of the Administrative Body by cause of resignation includes the gathering of the General Executive Body within the three months following the dissolution.

Art. 24 It is possible to exclude a member of the Administrative Body. This exclusion is pronounced by the General Executive Body. The decision is made by a regular majority of the votes. Therefore, two thirds of the members of the General Executive Body must be present or represented by written authorization. Moreover two thirds of the countries represented in the IVZW must be represented by the present members.

Art. 25 The mandate of a member ends with death, resignation, civil ineligibility, exclusion or expiration of the term of the mandate.

Art. 26 A member from the Administrative Body can resign on the demand of the Organisation he represents.

Art. 27 The Administrative Body assembles at least two times a year. The President calls for an assembly at least 10 days beforehand, by means of written communication.

Art. 28 The Administrative Body has a legitimate assembly if half of the members, even as the President, are present. Decisions are made by regular majority of the votes, except for those cases in which the law or these statutes require another procedure. In case of equal number of votes, the vote of the President is decisive.

Art. 29 The Administrative Body organises itself. The Administrative Body can delegate some of its authority towards its members or a third person, especially the function of treasurer or secretary.

### Art. 30 Authorities

§1 The Administrative Body is authorized to prepare and execute the decisions made by the General Executive Body. Moreover, the Administrative Body can make all decisions that are not explicitly reserved for the General Executive Body.

§2 The Administrative Body can represent the IVZW for all legal and extra-legal acts, without special permission of the General Executive Body.

§3 The President or two members of the Administrative Body are allowed to sign those deeds that concern the IVZW.

§4 The Administrative Body acts on behalf of the IVZW as plaintiff or pleader in lawsuit and will be represented by the President or two members of the Administrative Body.

Art. 31 Every year the Administrative Body gives the General Executive Body account about the policies of the past year and presents the budget for the upcoming year. The General Executive Body approves both.

Art. 32 The reports of the Administrative Body are written down in an ad hoc register and signed by the President.

### **Section 3: The President**

Art. 33 The President is elected by the General Executive Body for a period of three years. This mandate can be renewed.

Art. 34 The President:

- Calls for the assembly of the constituent Bodies of the IVZW
- Announces the IVZW on different levels
- Represents the IVZW in relations with third parties

Art. 35 The President calls for the gathering of the General Executive Body and determines the agenda. The members of the General Executive Body must receive the agenda at least 10 days before the assembly, by means of written communication. The agenda must contain every issue proposed by at least one fifth of the members. The General Executive Body cannot present new issues to the agenda without the agreement of two thirds of the present members and those represented by written authorization.

Art. 36 The President can call, with agreement of the Administrative Body, for an extraordinary General Executive Body. He is obliged to do that on explicit written demand of the representatives of at least one fifth of the countries represented in the IVZW. This written demand for the attention of the President contains all the issues that have to be on the agenda.

## V Financial Resources

Art. 37 Incomes

§1 The financial resources of the IVZW are composed of the membership fees, paid annually by the members of the IVZW, following the modalities made by the Administrative Body.

§2 Other resources of the IVZW are subsidies, sponsorship, donations and any other income, in accordance with the law and the nature of the IVZW.

Art. 38 The social year starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Every year, the Administrative Body announces the financial report of the past year and the budget for the upcoming year to the General Executive Body. The General Executive Body approves both. The financial report will be, in according to article 51 of the Belgian Law, notified to the Federal Government of Justice.

## VI Changing the statutes and dissolution

Art. 39 These statutes can be changed by the General Executive Body on proposal of the Administrative Body or on written demand of the representatives of at least one fifth of the countries represented in the IVZW, addressed to the Administrative Body. Every proposal or demand of change must be put on the agenda of the first General Executive Body following. The General Executive Body can only pronounce a change if at least two thirds of the members are present or represented by written authorization. Moreover, two thirds of the countries, represented in the IVZW must be represented by the present members. If this quorum isn't reached, the President has to call for a new General Executive Body within three months after the first one. Then the General Executive Body will vote legitimately, regardless of the number of members that are present or represented by written authorization and regardless of the number of countries that are represented. To be accepted, every change of the statutes must be approved with two thirds of the votes given.

Every change of the statutes must be declared by Royal Decree (other changes only need to be approved by the Minister of Justice or his/her representative).

Art. 40 The General Executive Body can only pronounce the dissolution of the IVZW when two thirds of the members are present or represented by written authorization. Moreover, two thirds of the countries represented in the IVZW must be represented by the present members. If this quorum isn't reached, the President has to call for a new General Executive Body within three months after the first one. Then the General Executive Body will vote legitimately, regardless of the number of members that are present or represented by written authorization and regardless of the number of countries that are represented.

The dissolution can only be pronounced if two thirds of the votes given are in favour of dissolution.

Art. 41 The gathering of the General Executive Body where the dissolution will be discussed has to be announced at least three months on beforehand.

Art. 42 The dissolution of the IVZW will only be valid after publication in 'Het Belgisch Staatsblad / Le Moniteur Belge'.

Art. 43 In case of dissolution the remaining assets will be classified in another non profit Organisation with comparable goals.

Art. 44 All things that are not regulated by these statutes will be regulated by Title III of the Belgian law of June 27<sup>st</sup> 1921 concerning the non-profit associations, the international non-profit associations and the corporations.

## VII Rules and regulations

Art. 45 The Organisation and functioning of the IVZW DBYN, as formulated in these statutes, will be completed by means of rules and regulations. These rules and regulations and changes to these rules and regulations are subject to decisions of the Administrative Body.

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