

STATUTES OF THE
WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT – INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL POLICY

As adopted at the Sixth Congress (London, 1954) and amended at the Eighth Congress (Stockport, Cheshire 1956); Pietersberg Conference - 1959; Twelfth Congress (San Francisco, 1965); Thirteenth Congress (Oslo, 1967); Emergency Congress (Elsinore, 1968); Fourteenth Congress (Ottawa, 1970); Fifteenth Congress (Brussels, 1972); Sixteenth Congress (New Delhi, 1975); Eighteenth Congress (Tokyo, 1980); Special Congress (London, 1985); Twentieth Congress (Philadelphia, 1987); Twenty-first Congress (Noordwijkerhout, 1991); Twenty-second Congress (San Francisco, 1995); Twenty-fifth Congress (Geneva, 2007); Twenty-sixth Congress (Winnipeg, 2012); and Twenty-seventh Congress (The Hague, 2018); Twenty-eighth Congress (online, 2021).

Preamble

1. As members of the World Federalist Movement, we affirm our determination to exercise our rights and responsibilities as citizens of the whole world in order to achieve the high purposes of the United Nations.
2. Ours is a planet in crisis, suffering grave problems unable to be managed by nations acting separately in an ungoverned world. It has become urgent for the world's people and governments to join in achieving a new level of global solidarity such as can only be sustained by a commitment to the planet as a genuine community. We make that commitment and call on our fellow citizens and governments to do the same.
3. As world federalists, we view the world as one society embracing all of humanity in all its diversity. We affirm that the ideals and principles of community life which are basic to civilized existence can and must be applied to international relations. To this end, we call for urgent progress in developing democratic world institutions of law by which the world's people and nations can govern their relations to assure a peaceful, just and ecologically sustainable world community.
4. These institutions must have actual and sufficient authority to make and enforce law in their given jurisdictions in accordance with the basic federalist principle of subsidiarity, which is the division of political authority and jurisdiction between different levels of government and the solving of problems at the level at which they occur, in general at the most local level possible. For this is the essence of world federalism: to seek to invest legal and political authority in world institutions to deal with problems which can only be treated adequately at the global level, while affirming the sovereignty of the nation-state in matters which are essentially internal. Our objective is a world order in which the legitimate rights of nations to self-determination are balanced by and consistent with the collective rights of the global community to protect and advance the common good of humanity.
5. Our objective is to have not only governments, but individuals recognize their obligation to uphold and affirm world law through allegiance to these institutions. It is the citizen who is finally the rightful source and subject of the authority of world law. Individuals, whether heads of government or ordinary citizens, must be accountable under due process of world law for crimes against humanity.
6. In our work for world federation, we are dedicated especially to work for:
 - understanding and amity among the world's cultures and political ideologies;
 - an end to the arms race, and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction;

- **an end to the use and threat of use of military force;**
 - **respect for universal human rights and freedoms, including the right of all to the requirements of a dignified life, and the freedom of all to responsibly express their beliefs;**
 - **equitable participation of all in the global economy and in global decisions which affect their lives; equitable distribution of world resources between rich and poor countries, in order to eradicate poverty, disease and illiteracy;**
 - **the protection of our common environment and the preservation of the ecosystem for succeeding generations; and**
 - **the emergence of a global ethos and a consciousness of humanity as one community and of every person as a citizen of one world.**
7. **In the service of our goals we support transnational tendencies which lead towards a legal and democratic world order and world community. We especially support:**
- **the important functions and work of the United Nations system, while working at the same time to make it more democratic, reliable and effective;**
 - **respect for international law, as well as its further development through such existing mechanisms as state ratification of treaties and conventions;**
 - **the development of democratic accountability and representation within regional, international and global organizations; and**
 - **the development of associations and/or federations for regional or functional purposes.**
8. **We recognize that the building of a world community -- one based on fundamental justice and an appreciation of differences -- is the greatest intellectual, moral and political challenge of our time. It calls on each of us to examine our beliefs and priorities, and to express in our personal way our commitment to global change.**
9. **Change requires the organized will and intelligence of many individuals, and each person has something positive and vital to contribute to the process of change. Believing that by working together we can achieve more than by working separately, we unite our efforts through the World Federalist Movement and adopt hereby this constitution.**

Article 1 **MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.a** **Membership shall be open, irrespective of race, color, nationality, religion, class or sex to any individual, organization or group subscribing to the aims, Statutes and Bylaws of WFM as is hereinafter provided. Membership shall be of the following categories:**
- 1.b** **Member Organizations**
- 1.b.i.** **Member Organizations shall be those established with a primary purpose similar to that of the World Federalist Movement, and who are open for individual members in their area or sector of operation. Member Organizations must have a minimum of 20 paid-up members.**
- 1.b.ii.** **Member Organizations shall have a significant capacity to contribute to the enhancement of public and political support for the aims of WFM and the World Federalist Movement itself. They shall commit to carrying out one or more programmes devised by the Congress as described in Article 2.a., consistent with the fundamental policies adopted by Congress. They shall be committed to and shall practice democratic internal organization. They shall be organized and administered in accordance with the legislation of their respective countries. The establishment of Member Organizations shall be carried out in close cooperation with the Congress and Executive Committee, which shall receive for approval a copy of their statutes. The annual dues shall be defined by Congress.**
- 1.c** **Associated Organizations**
- 1.c.i.** **Associated Organizations shall be those established with a primary purpose other than those of WFM as outlined under the above Preamble, but which are in general sympathy with the idea of world federalism; or those who are not open for personal members in their area or sector of operation; or new organizations that shall be considered as future Member Organizations; or organizations that do not request full membership as Member Organizations. As Associated Organizations can also be accepted Parliamentary Groups, Umbrella Organizations, Youth Organizations, sectoral interest groups which may be termed Transnational Networking Organizations, and others that do not yet fulfill the criteria for a Membership Organization.**
- 1.c.ii.** **Associated Organizations shall have some capacity to contribute to the enhancement of public and political support for the aims of WFM. The establishment of Associated Organizations shall be carried out in close cooperation with the Congress and Executive Committee which shall receive for approval a copy of their statutes. Applicants for Associate Organization membership shall endorse the WFM Statement of Purpose. The annual dues shall be defined by Congress.**
- 1.d** **Individual Members**
- 1.d.i.** **Individuals who support the idea of world federalism can become members of the International Member Organization of the WFM. Unless otherwise stipulated by these Statutes or the Bylaws, this organization shall follow the same rules as any other Member Organization.**
- 1.d.ii.** **The WFM IMO shall be incorporated in the country or countries where the WFM is incorporated and shall be administered in accordance with the legislation of such countries. The membership dues of the WFM IMO shall be paid to the WFM directly and administered by the WFM International Secretariat, according to rules to be provided in the Bylaws. The annual statement of paid-up members of the IMO shall be administered by the WFM International Secretariat.**

- 1.d.iii.** The President(s) of WFM is (are) ex officio president(s) of the International Member Organization. The members of the IMO will elect other board members among themselves by means as provided in the Bylaws of the IMO.
- 1.e** Congress accepts new Member Organizations and Associated Organizations by a simple majority, by recommendation from the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee (CNSC). The CNSC shall review membership applications throughout the year, recommending appropriate action to the Executive Committee. If membership requirements are not met, the Executive Committee may, in special circumstances, make exceptions to them. Such exceptions shall be reported to the Congress.
- 1.f** The Congress may, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, withdraw by a two-thirds majority vote the membership of a particular WFM member if the individual or organization fails to comply with or contravenes the Statutes or Bylaws or acts in a manner harmful to the work of the Movement. The individual or a majority of the members of the organization may appeal against the action to the next Congress, the decision of which is final.
- 1.f.i.** Expulsion of any individual member or member organization can be initiated by the Executive Committee. Any such proposal shall be sent to the Head of the WFM Secretariat and by him/her be submitted to the members of the Executive Committee and the CNSC with simultaneous information to the charged party. If the Executive Committee decides, in consultation with the CNSC, to make a recommendation for expulsion, the charged party will be suspended by registered letter without delay and the case will be circulated to all WFM organizations. Decisions shall be taken at the first following meeting of the Congress by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting. An expelled party may appeal to the next Congress. Such an appeal shall be placed on the agenda before any voting is done. The charged party has the right to be represented during discussions in Congress.

Article 2 CONGRESS

- 2.a** The Movement shall be governed by its Congress, which shall formulate the fundamental policy of the World Federalist Movement. The Congress shall also devise the appropriate programme and shall plan action on those matters relating to the objectives of the World Federalist Movement which the Member and Associated Organizations shall be bound to implement in ways appropriate, provided that policy, programme or action affecting exclusively a Member or Associated Organization shall be subject to the sole authority of such Organization(s). Between Congresses all powers not reserved to Congress shall be vested in the Executive Committee.
- 2.b** The Congress shall be called by the Executive Committee every two years. Congress may also be called by one-third of all Member and Associated Organizations, currently paid-up, requesting the same in writing to the International Secretariat.
- 2.c** Notice and Deadlines
- 2.c.i.** The Congress shall determine the date, place and agenda of its meetings, to be implemented by the Executive Committee, and the decision to be communicated to the MOs and AOs in a timely manner.
- 2.c.ii.** Notice of the meeting of the Congress shall be sent to all recognized members so as to be received not later than three months before its commencement. This shall include a notification to the organizations of the delegates to which it is entitled.

- 2.c.iii. Not less than six weeks before the meeting, proposals for the Congress shall be submitted to the International Secretariat, including proposed items for the meeting agenda, proposed amendments to the Statutes, and proposed resolutions. MOs, AOs, the IMO, members of the Executive Committee, and the Head of the WFM Secretariat have the right to make such proposals and to have them considered by Congress. Proposals that are not submitted by this deadline may be accepted for consideration by a two thirds majority of Congress, except for Statutes amendments where the deadline is mandatory.
- 2.c.iv. Not less than six weeks before the meeting, MOs, AOs and the IMO shall provide a report of their activities since the previous Congress, and submit the names of appointed delegates for the upcoming meeting, as well as other information as requested in the notice of Congress. They are also invited to submit nominations for Officers and Executive Committee Members.
- 2.c.v. Applications for Member Organization or Associated Organization must be submitted not less than six weeks before the meeting of Congress.
- 2.c.vi. Information received in response to the notice, and a provisional agenda of the meeting shall likewise be circulated to the same parties not less than one month before the meeting date.
- 2.c.vii. The names of all Congress delegates shall be circulated one month prior to Congress. Member and Associated Organizations are responsible for informing the Secretariat of changes in its appointments no later than two weeks prior to a meeting of Congress.

2.d Composition

- 2.d.i. The Congress shall be composed of delegates appointed by Member and Associated Organizations, and ex officio delegates. Congress shall always consist of a majority of delegates from Member Organizations.
- 2.d.ii. Each Member Organization with 20 to 200 members shall be entitled to 2 delegates; those with 201 to 800 members shall be entitled to 3 delegates; those with 801 to 2000 members shall be entitled to 4 delegates; those with 2001 or more shall be entitled to 5 delegates.
- 2.d.iii. The number of delegates each with a vote at the Congress shall be calculated on the basis of the number of paid-up members in the previous year. No organization can have more than 25% of the total vote.
- 2.d.iv. Associated Organizations shall be entitled to send one delegate each to the Congress.
- 2.d.v. The Officers and Executive Committee Members shall be ex officio delegates to Congress. The Head of the WFM Secretariat shall be an ex officio observer with the right to speak, but not to vote. If the Assistant Treasurer is not already a delegate, they shall be an ex officio observer.
- 2.d.vi. The Congress may appoint members of Member or Associated Organizations, or non-members with desired competence, to serve in an advisory position to each Congress meeting. Such advisors will have the right to speak and propose, but not to vote.
- 2.d.vii. Any delegate otherwise eligible to participate and vote is entitled to participate virtually via online communications. The delegates who participate virtually shall be able to participate in discussions, make motions, and cast votes, in the same way as delegates who are physically present. Any delegate intending to participate virtually must notify the Secretariat in writing by the meeting registration deadline(s) as stipulated by the Secretariat. In the event of an emergency, a waiver to this deadline can be granted by Congress Chair.

2.e Decisions

- 2.e.i. All decisions of the Congress shall be taken by a simple majority of delegates present and voting, except in the case of changing the Statutes and of dissolving the Movement. In case of a tie the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.**
- 2.e.ii. Each delegate shall have one vote. Each delegate may also, upon presentation to the Chair of the session of a written authority to act, cast proxy votes for his/her organization only, but not exceeding five votes in all. Staff members may not serve as proxies for delegates.**

2.f The Congress shall adopt a document of fundamental policies of the World Federalist Movement, to be open to amendments at each Congress session.

2.g The Executive Committee shall submit a report to Congress on the work of the WFM since the previous Congress. A condensed report shall be submitted to all participating organizations by the Head of the WFM Secretariat after review of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

2.h The Congress may appoint such committees as it thinks fit.

2.i The Congress shall establish its own rules of procedure, which must be in conformity with the Statutes. Congress shall establish a Steering Committee to assist in the general conduct of the work of the Congress. The Steering Committee's composition and role shall be defined in Congress's rules of procedure.

2.j Those years when Congress is not called, the Executive Committee shall arrange other events; in particular regional meetings, networking, recruiting and educational events. These events should be subject to budget and activity level in each region.

Article 3 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3.a The Congress shall delegate policy execution to the Executive Committee between Congress meetings. The Executive Committee shall harmonize programs and campaigns established by the Congress, in accordance with available resources. The Executive Committee is responsible to the Congress for its actions.

3.b The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- all Officers elected by Congress in accordance with Article 4 of these Statutes
- four additional members elected by Congress
- the Head of the WFM Secretariat as a non-voting member

3.c Half of the members of the Executive Committee, including Officers, shall be elected every second Congress, for four-year terms. When necessary in order to achieve this, members of the Executive Committee can be elected for two-year terms.

3.d The Executive Committee may additionally appoint members of Member or Associated Organizations, or non-members with desired competence, to serve in an advisory position for a period. Such advisors will have the right to speak and propose, but not to vote.

- 3.e** All decisions of the Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified, shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting.
- 3.f** Members of the Executive Committee may not appoint alternates or substitutes or vote by proxy. Five voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, any decisions shall be validated only when subsequently ratified in writing by a majority of the Executive Committee.
- 3.g** The Committee shall meet not less than twice a year, of which one shall be a physical meeting, and its decisions shall be subject to review by the Congress.
- 3.h** The Executive Committee may appoint such subcommittees and working groups, whose membership is not limited to members of the Executive Committee, as it thinks fit.
- 3.i** The composition of the Executive Committee, and the election of Officers, shall ensure broad representation in the WFM among genders, age groups, and geographical background, to the widest extent possible.

Article 4 OFFICERS

- 4.a** The Congress shall elect at least one and no more than two Presidents of the Movement, the role of which shall be to represent the Movement and to publicly promote its aims. The presidents shall be persons with an international profile who have subscribed to the aims of the Movement, can appeal to a wide variety of audiences, and have an ability to attract funds and public and political support for the Movement. Nominations should be made that represent a balance of individuals in terms of gender, geographic origin and background.
- 4.b** The Congress shall elect its Chairperson and a First Vice-Chairperson to act in the Chairperson's absence, and a Second Vice-Chairperson to act in the First Vice-Chairperson's absence. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Congress, develop in collaboration with other officers and the Executive Director the agenda for Congress meetings, serve as a spokesperson for the Movement as appropriate when the President(s) are not available, and assume other responsibilities as directed by the Congress.
- 4.c** The Congress shall elect a Treasurer responsible for the safeguarding of assets, for banking arrangements and the financial soundness of WFM. They shall also ensure that material is available for audit review. The Treasurer may appoint an Assistant Treasurer from time to time subject to the approval of the Congress at its next meeting.
- 4.d** The Congress shall elect the Chairpersons of the Executive Committee; the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee; the Policy Review Committee; and the Membership and Outreach Committee; and a Secretary from its members, each of whom shall be responsible for carrying out the responsibilities of the respective committees as described in the Bylaws.
- 4.e** The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the preparation and distribution of the minutes of meetings of the Congress and Executive Committee.
- 4.f** The Congress shall elect the officers mentioned above by secret ballot on an absolute majority of members voting in person or by proxy in a manner prescribed in the Bylaws.

Article 5 **HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

- 5.a** **The Congress shall have the power to appoint Honorary Officers of the World Federalist Movement originating from different regions of the world and with due regard to the interest of WFM members existing in the areas.**
- 5.b** **The Congress shall invite distinguished individuals to serve as members of the Advisory Board. The size of the Advisory Board shall be determined by the Congress.**
- 5.c** **Such officers and advisors shall have no formal responsibilities in the governance of the Movement, and may serve, for varying lengths of time, at the pleasure of the Congress.**

Article 6 **COMMITTEES**

- 6.a** **The Congress shall appoint the following continuing committees: Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee; Policy Review Committee; and Membership and Recruitment Committee. In addition, the Executive Committee may each set up ad hoc committees and task forces between meetings of Congress. The membership of such committees shall be established so as to satisfy, to the largest possible extent, the organizational interests of the Member Organizations.**
- 6.b** **The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall also in consultation with the Head of the WFM Secretariat be authorized to nominate delegates to represent WFM at appropriate national and international conferences.**
- 6.c** **Committees and task forces shall report to the Executive Committee and the Congress. They will inform, plan, and collaborate with the Head of the Secretariat.**

Article 7 **SECRETARIATS**

- 7.a** **The Head of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Executive Committee subject to the approval of the Congress. The Executive Committee shall determine his/her salary and conditions of service. They shall attend the sessions of the Congress and the Executive Committee. Between meetings of the Congress and the Executive Committee, the Head of the Secretariat shall be responsible as the Chief Executive Officer for managing the affairs of the Movement.**
- 7.b** **Other senior officers of the Secretariat and senior officers of the Regional Secretariats shall be appointed by the Head of the Secretariat subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.**
- 7.c** **The Seats of the Secretariat and the Regional Secretariats shall be determined by the Congress.**

Article 8 **FINANCES**

- 8.a** **WFM shall be financed by:**
- **Annual dues paid by Member Organizations, Associated Organizations and others**
 - **Donations and grants**

All sources of funding will be scrutinised as being ethically appropriate to the objects and reputation of WFM.

- 8.b** The annual budget shall be prepared by the Head of the Secretariat in cooperation with the Treasurer. The budget shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval, circulated to all Member and Associated Organizations and distributed at Congress.
- 8.c** The execution of the financial policies is the responsibility of the Head of the Secretariat.
- 8.d** The arrangements for appropriate auditing are to be approved by the Executive Committee and the report shall be presented and circulated to all Member and Associated Organizations not later than six months after the end of the fiscal year and distributed at Congress.
- 8.e** The financial accountability of the Movement shall be maintained by the procedures established in the Bylaws.

Article 9 **STATUTES AMENDMENTS**

- 9.a** Only Member Organizations and the Executive Committee may propose amendments to the Statutes.
- 9.b** Proposals to amend these Statutes shall be sent to the Secretariat to be received there not less than six weeks prior to the meeting of the Congress and shall be dealt with by the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of the relevant articles of these Statutes.
- 9.c** Any amendments to the Statutes shall require an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the delegates voting in person or by proxy.
- 9.d** Amendments shall be operative as of the moment of their adoption.

Article 10 **DISSOLUTION**

- 10.a** The Movement may be dissolved only by decision of the Congress acting on the proposal from the Executive Committee or any Member Organization.
- 10.b** The Secretariat shall circulate such a proposal simultaneously by registered letter to each of the Member and Associated Organizations not less than 60 days prior to the date for a decision.
- 10.c** Any such proposal shall be adopted if passed by a two-thirds majority of the delegates either at a Congress or through a mail ballot.
- 10.d** The dissolution of the Movement shall be in accordance with the law and practice relating to non-profit organizations in the jurisdiction(s) in which it is incorporated which may include any distribution of assets.

APPENDIX

Article I MEMBERSHIP DUES

- I.i** Member Organizations shall pay membership dues to WFM based on the number of members, and Associated Organizations a set amount. Each of the Member Organizations shall forward to the Secretariat an annual statement of paid-up members organized in that Member Organization.
- I.ii** Annual membership dues for Member Organizations (MOs), Associated Organizations (AOs), or other Congress-recognized groups shall be set by the Congress at the recommendation of the Treasurer and the Executive Committee. The burden of demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that special rates should apply rests with that particular organization; otherwise, the Congress-defined rates shall apply.
- I.iii** The dues may be paid in equivalent amounts in any currency, but there shall be no changes in amounts due because of changes in exchange rates. Any payment of dues shall automatically be applied to the furthest remote arrears.
- I.iv** Dues shall be paid annually. Any MO or AO which has not fully paid their dues by the end of the previous year prior to the Congress session shall not be granted delegates at Congress. Any delinquency or penalty may be waived at the discretion of the Treasurer.

Article II REIMBURSEMENTS

- II.i** The members of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to be reimbursed for traveling and lodging expenses when attending meetings of the Congress and Executive Committee subject to the availability of funds.

Article III ELECTIONS

- III.i** All contested elections of Officers and the Executive Committee shall be by secret ballot. The Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee (CNSC) shall be responsible that all delegates be provided with a list of delegates and a list of candidates nominated by Member Organizations before Congress, and with support from the Secretariat shall provide the means for all delegates participating in person or virtually to vote.
- III.ii** The CNSC shall accept nominations of candidates for election to Officers and the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 3.b of the Statutes. The CNSC shall determine and make known to delegates a closing time for the reception of nominations. Nominations for the election of President(s), Honorary Officers or Advisory Board cannot be given from the floor of the Congress, but must be submitted in advance. The CNSC shall make a recommendation regarding which offices in the Executive Committee should be filled for 4-year and 2-year periods, respectively.
- III.iii** No officer shall be eligible to serve simultaneously for more than one of the offices listed in Article 4 of the Statutes. Staff members shall not be eligible as candidates for any office or for the Executive Committee.
- III.iv** In the case of contested elections of officers or of the Executive Committee, a second vote shall be taken between the two leading contenders, if no contender has obtained a 50% majority of the vote first taken. In the event of a tie, a further ballot shall be held from among those candidates who have not withdrawn their names. In the event of a continued tie between two candidates, the election shall be decided by drawing lots.

- III.v** The voting figures from the elections of Officers and the Executive Committee shall be made available upon request following the announcement of those elected.

Article IV ACCOUNTABILITY

- IV.i** The Head of the WFM Secretariat, in cooperation with the Treasurer, shall twice a year circulate to the Executive Committee statements of receipts, disbursements and obligations in due time before the Executive Committee meetings.
- IV.ii** The Executive Committee shall, in coordination with the Treasurer and Secretariat, take appropriate action to have reviewed the fiscal records of WFM at least once each year. The results of this review will be reported to the Congress. The fiscal year of the Movement is the calendar year.
- IV.iii** Officers empowered to sign legal and policy documents are the Chairperson of the Congress together with the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- IV.iv** The Executive Committee shall determine from time to time who shall be authorized to sign on the Movement's behalf checks, notes, drafts, acceptances, bills of exchange, and other orders or obligations for the payment of money; to enter into contracts; or to execute and deliver other documents and instruments. No individual shall be authorized to bind the Movement to any obligation unless expressly authorized by the Executive Committee.
- IV.v** In all other matters documents shall be signed by the Head of the WFM Secretariat or the officer designated by him/her.
- IV.vi** The Head of the WFM Secretariat shall in political matters be guided by the advice of the Chairperson of the Congress and, when dealing with major issues of organization and finance, shall provide prompt and complete reports to the Chairperson of the Congress, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer. When Congress and Executive Committee are not in session, the Head of the WFM Secretariat shall be responsible that statements on current affairs be issued. The text of any such statement must be approved by two of the following: the President(s), the Chairperson of the Congress and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.