



**BYLAWS OF THE WORLD COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY**  
AS AMENDED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 26 FEBRUARY 2019

An association is created, governed by the French law of 1st July 1901 and the decree of 16th August 1901 and having the following bylaws:

***Preamble***

The signatories of the Final Declaration of the 1st World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in Strasbourg on 21-23 June 2001, pledged to “create a worldwide coordination of abolitionist associations and campaigners” (§9 of the Declaration).

In conformity with this commitment, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty was created in Rome, Italy, on 13 May 2002.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and its member organisations share the common objective of universal abolition of the death penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty subscribes to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusiveness as well as the rule of law, human rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**ARTICLE 1: NAME**

The name of the association is “World Coalition against the Death Penalty” (hereinafter: “the Coalition”), in French “Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort”.

**ARTICLE 2: REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered address for the Coalition is 69 rue Michelet, 93100 Montreuil, France.

The registered address may be amended as appropriate, upon decision by the Steering Committee.

**ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE**

3.1. The goal of the Coalition is the universal abolition of the death penalty. To this end, the Coalition is dedicated to bringing together private, public, international, national, local and regional organisations to share in this objective.

3.2. In particular, the objectives of the Coalition consist of strengthening international action in the fight against the death penalty; in leading and coordinating action at an international level, particularly lobbying activities, to complement the actions that its members are carrying out; in bringing together new abolitionists, and in putting more pressure on those countries that keep capital punishment in their legislation. The Coalition also aims to create a network of abolitionist players and to support them.

3.3. The role of the Coalition is to complement the actions of its members, who remain entirely independent. As a priority, the Coalition acts at an international level.

3.4. The purpose of the World Coalition is to promote the universal abolition of the death penalty through all available means.

#### **ARTICLE 4: GENERAL RULES**

4.1. At all levels of the Coalition, decisions shall be made by vote of a majority of two thirds of the members present or represented.

4.2. Any governing body of the Coalition that has elected or appointed a person may relieve him/her of his or her role provided that s/he is given a chance to explain him/herself beforehand.

#### **ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP**

5.1. Membership is open to all organisations and corporations, public or private, international, national, local or regional, who are committed to the fight against the death penalty, including local governments, trade unions, bar associations and human rights organisations.

5.2. Every organisation that subscribes to the objective of universal abolition of the death penalty, and wishes to join the Coalition, should address a written request to the Secretariat, presenting the organisation, and indicating the ways in which it is currently taking, or planning to take, abolitionist action. The organisation should also address to the Secretariat a signed copy of the Intention Statement of the Coalition.

5.3. Membership requests shall be submitted for examination and decision to the Steering Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 6: DE-REGISTRATION**

Membership status is lost through:

- resignation by notification of the decision to the Executive Board of the Coalition;
- de-registration determined by the General Assembly after serious violation of the current Statutes, of the Intention Statement of the Coalition or, if relevant, of the Rules of Procedure.
- Non-payment of the membership fees, according to the terms established in the Rules of Procedure.

## **ARTICLE 7: GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

7.1. The General Assembly is comprised of all the members of the Coalition. It meets once every two years. It is convened by the President of the Coalition by any existing means of communication. Its agenda is fixed by the Steering Committee.

If there is a need, or at the request of two thirds of the members, the President of the Coalition shall convene a special General Assembly.

7.2. The General Assembly elects the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is elected for two years. The General Assembly determines and adopts the general strategy of the Coalition. In the years in which the General Assembly meets, it also adopts the activity report and the financial report which are presented by the Steering Committee.

7.3. Each member has one vote. A member of the Coalition can be represented with a written proxy by another member of the Coalition at the General Assembly. A member can represent a maximum of two other members by proxy.

7.4. The right to vote at the General Assembly will be reserved for those members who are up to date with their membership fees or for those who have been exempted.

## **ARTICLE 8: STEERING COMMITTEE**

8.1. The Steering Committee is in charge of implementing the strategy defined by the General Assembly.

8.2. The Steering Committee is made up of twenty members of the World Coalition, elected by the General Assembly, including if at all possible one local government, one trade union, one bar association and one human rights organisation. If the number of candidates is not sufficient to fill the 20 positions, the Steering Committee will work with the number of elected members. The composition of the Steering Committee must also endeavor to ensure a balanced geographical representation. Each member organisation of the Steering Committee must designate an individual to be its permanent representative, who can be replaced by the organization at any time.

8.3. The Steering Committee meets at least once a quarter and is convened by the President of the Coalition. It deliberates on all propositions from any member of the Steering Committee or from ten or more members of the Coalition. A member of the Steering Committee can be represented by another member with a written proxy. A member of the Steering Committee cannot represent more than two other members by proxy.

8.4 In the years in which the General Assembly does not meet, the Steering Committee is responsible for the adoption of the activity report and the financial report.

8.5. The Steering Committee elects the Executive Board from amongst the candidates presented by its members.

8.6. The Steering Committee must send the minutes of each of its meetings to all members of the Coalition.

8.7. The members of the Steering Committee can represent the Coalition publicly, but can only express themselves on behalf of the Coalition on specific matters that have been approved by the General Assembly or the Steering Committee.

8.8. The Steering Committee or the General Assembly can put working groups in place for specific projects that will be coordinated by a member of the Coalition. The Steering Committee can appoint a permanent working group to help the Executive Board in its assignments. If relevant, the means of designation and operation, and the powers of the different working groups, will be provided for in the rules of procedure or in the minutes of the Steering Committee or General Assembly meetings which created them.

#### **ARTICLE 9: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

9.1. The Executive Board, under the delegation of the Steering Committee, has the responsibility for the general control, management, governance and legal issues concerning the non-profit organisation. The Executive Board implements the decisions of the Steering Committee.

9.2. The Executive Board comprises five members of the Steering Committee - a president, a treasurer and three vice-presidents. The Executive Board is elected by the Steering Committee for a term of two years and each Executive Board member can be re-elected for a maximum of three consecutive terms. If the number of candidates is not sufficient to fill the five posts, the Executive Board will work with the number of members elected. The members of the Executive Board are individuals and not organisations but they must be linked to a member organisation of the Steering Committee.

9.3. The Executive Board's mandate will begin at the same time as the mandate of the Steering Committee. The Executive Board meets at least once a quarter before each Steering Committee meeting and is convened by the President of the Coalition.

9.4. The Executive Board must send the minutes of each of its meetings to the Steering Committee, using any usual means of communication.

9.5. The members of the Executive Board can represent the Coalition publicly, but can only express themselves on behalf of the Coalition on specific matters that have been approved by the General Assembly or the Steering Committee.

9.6 In the event that a member of the Executive Board resigns or is permanently unable to fulfill his or her duties, the President shall inform the Steering Committee, which at its next meeting, will elect a new member of the Executive Board in accordance with the provisions set out in Articles 8.5 and 9.2

## **ARTICLE 10: PRESIDENT**

10.1. The President represents the Coalition legally for acts of civil life and may take part in court proceedings on behalf of the Coalition, both in defense and in prosecution, with the provision, in the case of prosecution of a case at law, that s/he seeks prior authorization of the Steering Committee.

10.2 The President must send the preparatory documents for the meetings of the General Assembly to all members of the Coalition one month in advance, using any usual means of communication.

10.3. The President has the authority, when appropriate, to delegate some of her/his responsibilities to another member of the Executive Board.

10.4 In the event that the President is permanently unable to fulfill his or her responsibilities, the Steering Committee shall select one of the Vice-presidents to fulfill that role protempore. A new member of the Executive Board and the new President shall be elected in the next Steering Committee meeting after the vacancy.

## **ARTICLE 11: VICE-PRESIDENTS**

11.1 The three Vice-presidents are those executive board members that are neither the President nor the Treasurer.

11.2 The Vice-presidents support the work of the President in carrying out his/her responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE 12: TREASURER**

12.1. The Treasurer prepares the provisional budget in collaboration with the Executive Board before submitting it to the Steering Committee. S/he monitors its fulfillment and prepares the financial report of the Executive Board, presented every year to the Steering Committee.

12.2. The Treasurer may, when appropriate, delegate some of her/his responsibilities to another member of the Executive Board other than the President.

## **ARTICLE 13: FUNDS**

13.1. The funds of the association are made up of:

- the membership fees of its members;
- the proceeds of its activities;
- the grants that it receives from states, public corporations, local governments and other public bodies;
- donations from individuals or private companies;
- all other legally admissible funds.

13.2. The amount of the membership fees is fixed by the General Assembly. Members are encouraged to make voluntary contributions in addition to those fees. At the request of a member organisation, the Steering Committee can exempt it totally or partially from its annual fees. Exemption will be granted for a maximum of two consecutive years.

13.3. The Steering Committee or the General Assembly can decide to entrust an organisation in the Coalition with the task of asking for public or private funds on behalf of the Coalition for the projects adopted by the Coalition.

13.4. The annual budget is managed by the Executive Board and monitored by the Treasurer.

13.5. The financial year of the Coalition is the calendar year.

13.6. Every year, the Executive Board shall submit a financial report and a provisional budget to be voted on by the Steering Committee. At each meeting of the Steering Committee, a Cash Flow and Balance Sheet shall be presented by the Executive Board.

13.7. The accounts shall be inspected by an accountant and audited by a qualified auditor nominated by the Steering Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 14: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

A set of Rules of Procedure may be written by the Steering Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 15: MODIFICATION OF THE BYLAWS**

The General Assembly may modify the Bylaws by a two-thirds majority of the members present or represented, on the proposal of the Steering Committee or of twenty members of the Coalition.

The agenda of the General Assembly must give special notice of any proposal to modify the Bylaws. The modification proposals must be sent in due course to the members as an attachment to the invitation to attend the General Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 16: WINDING-UP**

The General Assembly, convened for this purpose by the President on the decision of the Steering Committee, may declare the winding-up of the Coalition by a two-thirds majority of the members present or represented.

The General Assembly will then nominate a liquidator and decide on the allocation of the potential winding-up proceeds. Such proceeds may only be allocated to a non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation fulfilling an objective in the domain of the defense of human rights.