



STATUTES

“Global Student Forum”

International non-profit organisation

Brussels (Belgium)



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1. Denomination

The name of the international non-profit organisation is "Global Student Forum", abbreviated "GSF."

2. Head Office

The head office of the GSF is in the Brussels Capital Region. The head office can be relocated within the Brussels Capital Region territory by the Steering Committee's decision.

3. Objective of the Association

3.1. Aims of the Association

The GSF has the following objectives :

- To promote the views of students on the educational system as a whole on a global level.
- To promote students' social, economic, political, and cultural interests on a global level and the human rights of students which have a direct or indirect effect on education and the status and welfare of students in society.
- To promote equal opportunities for all students regardless of criteria such as their political beliefs, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, gender, sexual orientation, social standing, disability.
- To promote equal access to all sectors and at all levels of education.
- To promote global cooperation and facilitate information exchange with students and student organisations.
- To promote cooperation with other organised groups in education and student life matters.
- To assist and support students' unions worldwide in their work to protect student interests.

In pursuing these objectives and bringing together student unions, the GSF represents



students' views to all actors in the field of education and student life in general.

3.2. Activities

To realise its objectives, the GSF will:

- collect, summarise, and distribute information between the member organisations;
- organise seminars, meetings, and training;
- develop policies and issue demands;
- promote the GSF policies and principles amongst other stakeholders in Education on the global level through advocacy, representation in structures or other legitimate means;
- run campaigns

The GSF shall cooperate with bodies relevant to fulfilling its objectives as long as the activities of these organisations do not contradict the principles and values of the GSF. It shall also carry out all other activities conducive to the realisation of the above aims and objectives.

4. Definition of membership

Membership in the GSF can be obtained as:

- Full Member
- Consociate Member
- Associate Member
- Candidate Member

Only organisations that act according to the Statutes and fulfil the membership criteria can become members of the GSF. The application shall consist of an application letter, the statutes and standing orders, a summary of the plan of work, and the completed GSF membership questionnaire (all in English, statutes, and standing orders in English and the



original language). These documents shall be sent electronically or by post.

A full , consociate, associate, or candidate member organisation can withdraw from the GSF by notifying the Steering Committee in writing.

4.1. Members

The members of the GSF are regional and national student organisations and movements from any parts of the world, which are legal entities constituted according to the law - statutes or usages - of their countries of origin or the country where they are legally seated and which:

- are controlled and run by students;
- hold democratic elections and or selections;
- run on a democratic basis;
- are representative;
- are autonomous and independent in their decision-making;
- advance the interests of the students they represent
- have set out objectives in accordance with the aims of the GSF as stated in the Statutes.

Full Membership

Full members are regional and continental student unions representing the interest of national unions of students in their membership.

Full members have the following rights:

- Full members are entitled to elect a representative to the Steering Committee once a year in the scope of the General Assembly
- Full members and their membership have the right to participate in training and events, as well as subcommittees and working groups, according to the respective rules of selection established by the Steering Committee.



Full members have the following obligations:

- Full members are to attend and vote in the general assembly
- Full member are to respect and act in accordance with the GSF's principles and values as set out in the Standing Orders

Consociate Membership

Consociate members of the Global Student Forum are national unions of students or national platforms that are not affiliated with any of the full members of the GSF.

Consociate members have the following rights:

- One position in the Steering Committee is reserved for the consociate member caucus. Representatives of consociate member organisations can stand for democratic caucus election into the Steering Committee once a year.
- Consociate members have the right to participate in training and events, as well as subcommittees and working groups, according to the respective rules of selection established by the Steering Committee.

Consociate members have the following obligations

- Consociate members are to respect and act in accordance with the GSF's principles and values as set out in the Standing Orders

Associate Membership

Associate Members are international, regional, national, or local student-led organisations and movements that do not meet full or consociate membership criteria.

Associate members have the following rights:

- One position in the Steering Committee is reserved for the associate member caucus. Representatives of associate member organisations can stand for democratic caucus election into the Steering Committee once a year.
- Associate members have the right to participate in training and events, as well as subcommittees and working groups, according to the respective rules of selection established by the Steering Committee.



Associate members have the following obligations

- Associate members are to respect and act in accordance with the GSF's principles and values as set out in the Standing Orders

Candidate Membership

Candidate members are organisations and movements that received the approval of candidate membership by the Steering Committee. After approval of the candidate membership, the Steering Committee thoroughly assesses the eligibility of the respective candidates for full, consociate, or associate membership. The eligibility assessment can take up to a maximum of half a year. The candidacy period must be counted from the day of official approval of candidate membership by an ordinary or extraordinary Steering Committee meeting.

Candidate members have the following rights

- Candidate members have the right to participate in training and events, as well as subcommittees and working groups, according to the respective rules of selection established by the Steering Committee.

Membership Review

Should any of the full, consociate or associate members act in contradiction to the principles and values of the GSF and or does not fulfil its obligations as set out by the statutes, the General Assembly can decide on disciplinary actions ranging from a written warning to suspending or terminating the membership of the concerned organisation within the GSF.

5. Working Structure

The institutions of the GSF are:

- General Assembly
- Steering Committee
- Secretariat



- Standing Subcommittee on Sustainable Financing
- Working Groups

Additionally, the following appointed structures are also to be considered as the GSF's institutions:

- Consociate Member Caucus
- Associate Member Caucus
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5.1 The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the legislative body of the Global Student Forum through which the full members elect their respective representative into the Steering Committee. Each full member can nominate one delegate into the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall at least convene once per year, in the first six months of the year, either in person or through a digital meeting platform.

The General Assembly can among other things:

- Vote the Statutes
- Vote the budget
- Vote the execution of the budget (in the first 6 months of the year)
- Vote on electing/dismissing the Steering Committee
- Vote on disbanding the organisation.

The General Assembly can be conveyed by either the Secretariat on behalf of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee or any of the full member organisations with 4 weeks of prior written notice.

The Secretariat shall take minutes of the General Assembly and communicate them to the members of the General Assembly within no less than one week after the closing of the General Assembly.



5.2. The Steering Committee

5.2.1. Composition and Mandate of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall be composed of one representative, each nominated by full members, and one representative, each elected by the consociate & associate member caucus. The Steering Committee shall be composed of a minimum of seven representatives. The mandate of the Steering Committee shall be 1 year.

It shall be the governing body of the organisation. It shall meet at least once a month for an ordinary Steering Committee Meeting. Extraordinary Steering Committee Meetings shall be convened at the request of two Steering Committee members or the Secretariat.

The Steering Committee is responsible for the execution of the decisions of the Steering Committee Meetings, political affairs, and the overall finances of the GSF.

The Steering Committee shall:

- take the initiative to promote the views of the GSF;
- be responsible for the external representation of the GSF;
- implement the decisions and policies of the Steering Committee Meeting
- Appoint the secretariat;
- design and approve partnership agreements with other organisations;
- report to the Steering Committee Meeting on all the activities of its members and the Secretariat, as specified in the standing orders;
- draw up the agenda for the Steering Committee Meetings in cooperation with the Secretariat;

5.2.2. Competencies of the Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee Meeting is the highest decision-making body in the GSF.

The Steering Committee Meeting shall:

Related to the Organisation:

- take decisions about plans of action, policies, and resolutions;

Related to the involvement in the GSF



- take all decisions concerning membership status;
- grant the status to full, consociate, and associate organisations.

Related to the Working Structures

- take all decisions concerning the appointment and discharging the members of the SSSF
- create, mandate, and disband Working Groups;
- elect a chair of each Working Group;

The Steering Committee Meeting shall deal with all other necessary matters, provided these matters are not against the Statutes or Standing Orders.

5.2.3. Decision-making Procedures in the Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee Meeting can only take valid decisions when an absolute majority of all members are present. Each Steering Committee member shall have an equal number of votes. The members of the Steering Committee shall endeavour to reach the widest possible measure of agreement. Decisions in the Steering Committee shall be taken by a simple majority unless otherwise specified in these statutes or the GSF's standing orders. The quorum of the Steering Committee shall be at least half of the members. A record of the decisions of the Steering Committee Meeting shall be kept. These records must be accessible to all Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee meetings are each chaired by a Steering Committee member on a rotating basis.

5.3. The Secretariat

5.3.1. Composition and Competencies of the Secretariat

The composition of the Secretariat is a matter of the Steering Committee. The Secretariat is accountable to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee can mandate a member of the Secretariat (Executive Director):

- To lead the day-to-day coordination and management of the organisation and steering of its institutions on behalf of the Steering Committee.
- To lead the Secretariat and thus the staff of the organisation
- To advise the Steering Committee in the day-to-day financial affairs of the



organisation;

- To represent the GSF's organisation, views, and policies to third parties.

All members of the Secretariat, including the Executive Director, only have speaking rights and no voting rights in the Steering Committee Meetings.

5.4 The Standing Subcommittee on Sustainable Finance

The composition of the Standing Subcommittee on Sustainable Finance (SSSF) is a matter of the Steering Committee. The SSSF members are appointed by and accountable to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee mandates the members of the SSSF to:

- Advise the Steering Committee and Secretariat on questions related to funding and finances
- Support the Steering Committee and Secretariat in fundraising activities

5.5 Working Groups

The creation and appointment of members to a Working Group is a matter of the Steering Committee. The Working Groups are accountable to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee mandates the Working Groups to:

- Advise the Steering Committee and Secretariat on questions related to the respective thematic areas of the Working Group.
- Support the Steering Committee and Secretariat in activities related to the respective thematic areas of the Working Groups.

5.6 The Consociate and Associate Member Caucus

The Consociate and Associate Member Caucus meet once a year, at the end of the Steering Committee Mandate to elect their respective representative into the Steering Committee. The Secretariat facilitates the elections per the regulations set out in the Standing Orders.



6. Judiciary Actions

The Steering Committee is fully responsible for judiciary actions and is represented by the Executive Director of the organisation in all legal and judicial procedures.

7. Standing Orders

All matters not dealt with by the law or statutes of the GSF are regulated by the Standing Orders (Rules of Procedure) adopted by the Steering Committee.

8. Amending the Statutes

The Steering Committee Meeting may amend the Statutes by a three-quarters majority of the votes cast, provided that notice of the proposed amendments has been submitted in writing to the GSF secretariat and Steering Committee at least 14 days in advance. The GSF secretariat has notified all members of the Steering Committee of such amendments not less than seven days in advance of the Steering Committee meeting. The amended articles shall be discussed in light of the chapter of the article.

9. Dissolution of the Organisation

The Steering Committee Meeting can decide on the organisation's dissolution with a three quarters majority of the votes present at two consecutive Steering Committee Meetings. In this case, the Steering Committee Meeting that dissolves shall decide to which organisation or organisations of similar aims it shall hand over all of its assets.