

STATUTES*

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI)

* Amended version-adopted at the Extraordinary International General Assembly of January 2015

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DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI)

PREAMBLE

Children are human beings and as such must benefit from the human rights which have been proclaimed within international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as all other international instruments which have entered into force.

Children have specific needs; they are a vulnerable group of society, particularly exposed to certain human rights' violations and for such reason, children have the right to special additional protection from the international community, governments, society and the family.

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) affirms that all children must be respected and that their basic and fundamental human rights –civil, political, economic, social and cultural– be guaranteed without any discrimination, regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, religion, personal or family situation.

In recognition of these principles, on the 5th July 1979 in Geneva (Switzerland) –during the International Year of the Child– the Global Movement of Defence for Children was founded; it was later officially established under the name of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Global Movement of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) abides by the following principles:

- The best interests of the child.
- Recognition that the rights of the child are human rights.
- The doctrine of integral protection, as a conceptual and political framework used to work towards protecting the rights of the child.
- Child participation as an essential requirement for children to be enabled to fully

exercise their rights.

- The promotion of life and peace.
- Constant search for a new and fairer international economic order.
- Gender, age and cultural equality.
- Inter-institutional and inter-sectorial coordination such as: special partnerships for joint action in order to exercise and guarantee the rights of the child, and as a basis for monitoring the actions of governments and civil society.
- Shared responsibility of government, society, community and the family as guiding principle in all actions.
- DCI recognises children as developing beings, and therefore promotes various levels of action to be taken by the state, society and the family, so as to ensure this principle and child participation in the drafting of public policies.
- In this respect, DCI ensures compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) signed in New York on 20th November 1989, its Optional Protocols and other international and national instruments concerning the rights of the child; DCI will continue to monitor governments in the fulfilment of their obligations and the respect of human rights.

TITLE I: General Clauses

ARTICLE 1 (Establishment and name). - DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL, abbreviated as "DCI", is an independent international organization, set up on the 5th July 1979, governed by the present statutes and provisions articulated within Article 60 (and following) of the Swiss Civil Code, relating to non-profit organizations.

ARTICLE 2 (Head office and duration). - The head office of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) is located in Geneva, Switzerland. It may also have National Sections in different countries, as well as regional representation. DCI is constituted with the perspective of unlimited duration, and dissolution shall only occur in cases defined by law and the present statutes.

ARTICLE 3 (Purpose). -DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) takes actions to promote the basic individual and collective human rights of children within the international community and nation states.

ARTICLE 4 (Objectives). - The general objectives of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) are as follows:

1. To provide an institutional reference point for local, national and international efforts which promote, protect, defend and develop the human rights of every child, in accordance with national and international legislation.

2. To ensure that children, whose rights have been threatened, restricted or violated, benefit from - no less than - immediate and accessible protective mechanisms.
3. Create extensive social and educational communication frameworks in order to raise-awareness, stimulate debate and shape public opinion on children and their realities.
4. Implement projects and initiatives intended to directly and effectively protect the rights of the child, particularly in geographical areas where issues are not addressed by existing organizations.
5. Develop public inquiry and complaint strategies, on a national and international level, for the individual and collective human and fundamental rights violations of children.
6. Support the establishment of public spaces wherein children may have the possibility to take on a lead role, favouring their social participation, decisions which affect them and the formation of a dignified standard of living.
7. Monitor the development and implementation of policies, laws and other actions involving children.

ARTICLE 5 (Non-profit structure). - The non-profit structure of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) resides in the fact that assets, resources and income obtained are not distributed among associates; these are instead used to carry out its planned actions and achieve the objectives of the organization.

TITLE II: Nature of the Organization.

Chapter I: International Organization.

ARTICLE 6 (Definition). - Members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) are natural or legal persons, individual or collective, who have been accepted as members of the association in the position of: full member (National Section), associate member or supporting member; as established within the present statutes.

The names “DEFENSE DES ENFANTS – INTERNATIONAL”, “DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS – INTERNACIONAL”, “DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL” and their respective abbreviations DEI, DNI and DCI are property of the Global Movement and may only be used by societies, organization or physical persons who have been accepted as members of the organization in accordance with the present statutes.

ARTICLE 7 (Admission Requirements). - A two-thirds majority vote of the International General Assembly (IGA) is required in order to be admitted as members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

Between assemblies, the International Executive Council (IEC) will have the capacity to provisionally admit National Sections or new members (associate or supporting) following the stated requirements for admission. Provisional admission must be ratified at the following International General Assembly (IGA) as per the conditions defined in the present statutes.

In order to be admitted, each person or entity must comply with the following requirements:

- Support and promote the spirit and content of the objectives of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI);
- Accept and promote the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols;
- Engage in the promotion of the Movement's activities by participating actively in the organization's projects and programmes.
- Financially contribute to the development of the Movement by making timely payments of both regular and exceptional fees.

Chapter II: Members

Section I: Full members (National Sections).

ARTICLE 8 (Definition). - National Sections are the institutional representation of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) in a nation state and will be established exclusively for this purpose.

ARTICLE 9 (Requirements). - The general requirements for the full recognition of a National Section are:

- Establish a national organization which abides by the principles and guidelines of the present statutes and national legislation in force, with the sole purpose of fulfilling the objectives of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI);
- Approve the statutes of the International Executive Council (IEC);
- Adopt an Annual Work Plan with respective progress reports, accountability mechanisms and budget sheets.
- The organization must be composed of at least ten (10) active members, namely people engaged in fulfilling DCI's objectives and effectively participate in the execution of the organization's activities and institutional development.

ARTICLE 10 (Organizational structure).- Each National Section, whilst abiding by institutional requirements of respective national legislation, will have to comply with the principles, guidelines, objectives and policies established by the Movement of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

Only one Section may exist in each country, unless the International Executive Council (IEC) authorizes the creation of another Section, under exceptional and well-founded circumstances. Such decision must be ratified by the International General Assembly (IGA) in accordance with Article 7 of the present statutes.

The National Sections are legally and financially independent from the international organization and the Movement as a whole.

ARTICLE 11 (Rights).- The rights of National Sections are as follows:

- Propose –via the International Secretariat– resolutions to the International General Assembly (IGA) regarding the Movement's actions or regarding amendments to the international statutes.
- Request technical and financial assistance from the International Executive Council (IEC), to which it will assist where possible in order to fulfil the organization's objectives.
- Have a representative eligible to vote during the International General Assembly (IGA).
- (Voluntary withdrawal) The present statutes, in line with Swiss legislation, authorises each member to withdraw from the organization, after presenting a written communication six months before the end of the civil year or six months before the end of any planned administrative exercise (Article 70.2 - Swiss Civil Code), having complied with statutory regulations.

ARTICLE 12 (Obligations) - Obligations of National Sections are as follows:

1. Agree and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Secretariat (IS) of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) (Articles 25.4 and 27.9).
2. Pay the annual fee before the end of the first semester of the calendar year.
3. Present an Annual Work Plan along with performance reports of the previous year with the respective financial statements, and where the law or statutes requires, external auditing reports.
4. Failure to comply with the obligations set out in the preceding paragraphs of this Article will jeopardise the right to vote at ordinary and extraordinary assemblies.
5. Work in coordination and collaboration with the International Secretariat.
6. Use the official DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) logo in all official communications and images.
7. Comply with the Code of Ethics and Gender Policy of the International Movement.
8. Create an email account for institutional communications and provide information thereof; failure to do so will validate to full effects the last known email address.

Section II: Associate members

ARTICLE 13 (Definition).- National or international organizations which are not National Sections can be associate members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) if they work towards and fulfil the organization's objectives without having a structural

connection with the Movement.

ARTICLE 14 (Admission).- The admission of an associate member can be carried out directly by the International Executive Council (IEC) in nation states with no existing National Sections. When a request is made from a nation state with a pre-existing National Section, the respective Section must be consulted.

ARTICLE 15 (Conditions). - The conditions required to be recognised as an associate member are:

1. The presentation of a membership application which demonstrates acceptance of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) principles and purpose;
2. Where appropriate, receive a positive feedback from the pre-existing National Section;
3. Submission of a Work Plan which coordinates and enables interinstitutional compatibility;
4. The organization must be made up of at least five (5) active members, i.e. people engaged in fulfilling the organization's objectives and effectively participate in the organization's activities and institutional life.
5. Create an email account for institutional communications and provide information thereof; failure to do so will validate to full effects the last known email address.
6. Official approval by the International Executive Council (IEC).

ARTICLE 16 (Rights). - The rights of associate members are:

1. Establish a National Section having completed two years of effective work in the respective nation state.
2. Receive support and assistance in actions aimed at fulfilling the organization's objectives.
3. Submit resolution proposals for the International General Assembly (IGA) to the DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) President, three (3) months in advance of such assemblies. Proposals shall be made known immediately to all National Sections of the Movement.
4. Have a representative with the right to speak at the International General Assembly (IGA).
5. To withdraw membership from DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) after submitting a formal communication to the International Executive Council (IEC) and having complied with statutory regulations.

ARTICLE 17 (Obligations).- The obligations of associate members are as follows:

1. Sign and comply with the Memorandum of Understanding of the IS of DEFENCE

FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

2. Pay an annual associate membership fee before the end of the first semester of the calendar year.
3. Present an Annual Work Plan along with performance reports of the previous year with the respective financial statements, and where the law or statutes requires, external auditing reports.
4. Make indication of their DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) associate member status in all documentation.
5. Support the Movement and the International Secretariat.
6. Directly participate in the International General Assembly (IGA), or -when necessary- delegate representation therein.
7. Create an email account for institutional communications and provide information thereof; failure to do so will validate to full effects the last known email address.

Section III: Supporting members

ARTICLE 18 (Definition).- Supporting members are natural persons who are registered as such with DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI), providing that there is no existing Section or institution which holds the status of DCI associate member in their respective country.

Their obligations and activities will be defined in a Memorandum of Understanding with the IS of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI), as established in Articles 25.4 and 27.9.

Section IV: Common norms to all members

ARTICLE 19 (Disciplinary actions).- Disciplinary authority provisions are referred to in Articles 25 and 27 of the statutes.

A disciplinary measure can be adopted as a result of serious offences, notably relating to the integrity of the member; to actions of a Section or member which are contrary to the organization's objectives; to the non-payment of annual fees for two consecutive years; the failure to submit the Annual Work Plan and the respective performance and financial reports; as well as in case of failure to collaborate with the International Secretariat.

Suspension or expulsion of a member prohibits it the use of the name "DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI)" or its abbreviation, and to claim itself, in any way, as representative of DCI.

The suspension will also result in the suspension of the right to vote within the various bodies of DCI International, including the International Executive Council (IEC), in the case of representation therein.

Suspension or expulsion will be communicated by the International Secretariat to international organizations, government agencies and non-governmental organizations with whom the International Movement, National Section or member are involved.

(NOTIFICATIONS) Notification of disciplinary actions by means of electronic addresses is to be considered effective, and in the case of lack thereof, the last known address will be used.

ARTICLE 20 (REVOCATION AND APPEAL).- The National Section, associate member or supporting member may appeal, without suspensive effect, to all disciplinary actions taken by the International Executive Council (IEC). The appeal must be well-founded and filed with the International Executive Council (IEC) within ninety (90) days of notification of the action.

Within forty-five (45) days, the International Executive Council (IEC) may decide whether to sustain or revoke the action. In the case of this action being sustained, such decision must be presented at the following International General Assembly (IGA), wherein a final decision will be made by a majority of two thirds.

ARTICLE 21 (Internal disciplinary actions of staff members).- National Sections and associate members will assume full responsibility for actions taken by their representatives and employees, and must apply internal disciplinary procedures which guarantee due process, so as to predetermine specific sanctions for each case. In the case of a staff members' conduct which jeopardises the Movement, National Sections and associate members have a responsibility to pronounce the appropriate disciplinary action, following the regulations set out by national statutes, and to report such conduct to the International Executive Council (IEC) of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

A member shall be deprived of his right to vote in decisions relating to an issue or a process of the organization, in which the member, his/her spouse or direct relative, were parties to the case.

TITLE III: Functional and Organizational Regime

Chapter I: Organizational bodies

ARTICLE 22 (Organizational structure).- DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) has an organizational, hierarchical and functional structure, which connects all of its bodies and components in the following order:

1. International General Assembly (IGA)
2. International Executive Council (IEC)
3. Presidency
4. Vice-Presidencies
5. Treasury
6. International Secretariat (IS)
7. Electoral Committee

ARTICLE 23 (International General Assembly). - The International General Assembly (IGA) of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) is the highest authority and decision-making body which decides on the most important and decisive actions of the

organization and therefore of the Movement as a whole.

- **(Constitution and required quorum)** The IGA is formed by representatives of all National Sections and associate members. The required quorum is three fifths (3/5) of the National Sections officially recognised, legitimately represented and possessing the right to vote.
- **(Resolutions)** The IGA can make decisions by simple majority, unless there is a specific clause set out in the present statutes stating the contrary.

ARTICLE 24 (Regular or Extraordinary Assemblies). - The International General Assembly holds regular meetings every four (4) years.

Extraordinary Assemblies can be summoned by the International Executive Council (IEC) or at the request of one quarter (25%) of National Sections with the right to vote.

Notification of such Assemblies must be given to all members within forty-five (45) days and the meeting itself must take place within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the request.

Resolutions can be adopted during the Extraordinary Assembly by electronic vote, with two thirds (2/3) majority of eligible members reaching a quorum of three fifths (3/5).

The International Executive Council (IEC) shall guarantee the transparency, accessibility and confidentiality of the voting process.

Each member, National Section and associate member will be prohibited by law to vote in decisions relating to an issue or proceeding of the organization, when he/she, his/her spouse or direct relatives are parties to the cause (Article 68 of the Swiss Civil Code).

ARTICLE 25 (Powers of the International General Assembly). - The International General Assembly (IGA) of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI), highest and sovereign authority of the institution, has the ability to grant additional powers and rights when deemed necessary and in accordance with the present statutes.

In particular, its remit covers the following:

1. Hand over to the President appointed during the previous IGA, and in case of impossibility, proceed with a new appointment.
2. Examine and rule on the reports of the Electoral Committee.
3. Examine and approve the agenda proposed by the International Executive Council (IEC).
4. Approve the Memoranda of Understanding or amendments therein, on proposal of the IEC in accordance with Article 27.9 of the present statutes.
5. Confirm, on proposal of the IEC, the admission of new members.

6. Approve, on proposal of the IEC, the suspension of members, or resignation of members if requested.
7. Define all activities, general policies and work plan of the Movement.
8. Appoint the Committees to operate until the next International General Assembly (IGA).
9. Approve the financial statements of the previous period, the budget for the following four-year period, and the criteria for defining fees for different members of the Movement.
10. Revise and approve the proposals and amendments to DCI's statutes and regulations
11. Elect the President, Treasurer and all other members of the International Executive Council (IEC).
12. Determine the dissolution of DCI by two thirds (2/3) of eligible voters and the required minimum quorum (Article 44).
13. Review the requests for appeals of disciplinary actions which were taken by the International Executive Council (IEC), provided that they were filed in time and in due form.
14. Appoint the President of the next International General Assembly.

ARTICLE 26 (International Executive Council). - The International Executive Council (IEC) is the governing authority of the Movement between International General Assemblies (IGAs). According to its Code of ethics and to the principle of gender equity, it is made up of maximum thirteen (13) people representing at least ten (10) countries and minimum of seven (7) people from different countries, at least one from each of the four (4) regions recognised by the institutional geographic distribution (Europe, Asia/Middle East/Oceania, Africa and America). In the event that the President is ill or impeded in any way, the IEC will elect a replacement from its vice-presidents.

It is the Electoral Committee which has the responsibility to encourage gender balance in the IEC, therefore the IEC must be composed at least of one third (1/3) of women, and in any case, it should not be composed by more than two thirds (2/3) of members of the same gender. Failing that, the elected members should seek other candidates, within National Sections, in order to reach this proportion. The new composition of the IEC must be communicated to the members within thirty (30) days after the election.

.- **(Candidature)** Essential conditions to be elected to the International Executive Council (IEC), include:

1. Be part of a National Section for at least a year. The National Section must have been member of the Movement for at least three years.
2. Not exercise any governmental functions.
3. Be active member of the National Section and provide the respective institutional

support.

4. Not have occupied executive functions within the IEC during the three previous periods.

ARTICLE 27 (Duties and responsibilities).- The International Executive Council (IEC) is responsible for the implementation of plans, policies and activities approved by regular or extraordinary International General Assembly (IGA). In addition to this responsibility, it must:

1. Formulate and adopt the Internal Rules & Regulations of the IEC, informing all National Sections, associate members and the International Secretariat thereof.
2. Appoint a Secretary General and Executive Director and staff thereof.
3. Approve and support the fulfilment of projects on a worldwide and regional scale.
4. Develop the Movement's strategic plan in collaboration with the International Secretariat and in accordance with the general guidelines and policies established by the IGA.
5. Establish the annual membership fees based on the guidelines adopted by the IGA.
6. Review and approve the annual reports of the International Secretariat.
7. Approve the previous financial statements and the budget proposed by the Treasurer.
8. Every semester, review and approve the financial statements presented by the Treasurer.
9. Establish Memoranda of Understanding to regulate the exchanges between the IS of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) and the different categories of members.
10. Develop the Movement's political relations.
11. Secure technical and financial resources.
12. Present a Management Activity Report and send it to all National Sections two months prior to the meeting of the International General Assembly (IGA).
13. Form a permanent technical support team.
14. Acknowledge the establishment of regional representation and coordination units of National Sections in accordance with the regionalisation recognised by the Movement.
15. Appoint an Advisory Committee made up of three (3) to five (5) members maximum.

16. In time establish ad hoc or permanent regional and international offices.
17. Provisionally admit National Sections or new members (associate or supporting) following the established criteria and submit these admissions to the IGA for ratification.
18. Exert disciplinary power over the members, that includes the following measures: written reprimand, suspension or proposal of exclusion to the IGA
19. Exercise disciplinary authority over staff of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

ARTICLE 28 (Replacement of members).- In the event that the President, Treasurer or a member of the International Executive Council (IEC) resigns or is impeded, whether for personal reasons or serious matters concerning lack of probity or conduct which is inconsistent with the principles and objectives of the Movement, replacement shall take place by decision of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the International Executive Council (IEC). In such case, the President is to be replaced by a Vice-President, and in the case of the Treasurer, replacement is by another member of the IEC or a representative of a National Section, and shall be communicated immediately to the rest of the members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

In the event of resignation or impediment of one third (1/3) of the acting members of the International Executive Council (IEC), an Extraordinary General Assembly will be summoned within six months, in order to appoint new members.

ARTÍCULO 29 (Operational quorum).- The International Executive Council (IEC) will meet in person or virtually with at least half plus one of its members.

(Resolutions) Resolutions shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes; in the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

(Delegations) Representation can only be delegated in writing, to another member of the Council

ARTICLE 30 (Presidency).- The President of the Movement will chair at the same time in the International Executive Council (IEC) and has the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Act as political representative of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) at the national and international level.
2. Chair the International Executive Council (IEC).
3. Inaugurate the International General Assembly (IGA).
4. In resolutions of the International Executive Council (IEC), cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
5. Implement actions decided by the International General Assembly (IGA) or the International Executive Council (IEC).
6. Maintain political contacts with donors and strategic alliances.
7. In exceptional cases, delegate legal representation by proxy, to a member of the IEC for the signing of all legal documents.
8. Build and promote actions that stimulate and enhance the development of

International Movement of DCI.

9. Maintain contact and ongoing dialogue with all bodies of the International Movement.

ARTICLE 31 (Vice-Presidencies)

The International Executive Council (IEC) is made up of one Vice-President from each region recognised by the institutional geographic distribution:

Europe

Asia/Middle East/Oceania

Africa

America

In agreement and under the authority of the International Executive Council (IEC), the Vice-Presidents must:

1. Within their region, act as legal and political representative of the Movement.
2. When establishing partnerships or contracts for the Movement at a regional or international level, representation shall be exercised by the Regional Vice-President in conjunction with the Presidents or legal representatives of the respective National Section, or Sections, where appropriate.
3. Develop a Regional Strategic Work Plan in coordination with National Sections following the guidelines established during the IGA and taking into account the regional context.
4. Act as a liaison between regional members and managing bodies of the Movement, and implement the Regional Strategic Work Plan.
5. Promote the strengthening of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) within the region, DCI's international agenda and the ongoing dialogue between National Sections.
6. Coordinate and report periodically to the IEC and the International Secretariat.
7. Vice-presidents may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE 32 (Treasury).- The treasury of the Movement will be managed by a Treasurer, who will have the duty to monitor the Movement's funds in a responsible, efficient and supportive manner; the President and the Secretary General or Executive Director, will be co-responsible for the treasury of the Movement. Functions of the treasury will include:

1. Monitor and administrate the Movement's economic and financial resources.
2. Draw-up the budget for each financial period and the annual financial statements for the working structure and operating of the organization, and present it to the International Executive Council (IEC) for approval.

3. Request payment of annual fees from National Sections and associate and supporting members.
4. Monitor the operational expenditure of the International Executive Council (IEC) and the International Secretariat.
5. Present a general financial report for the previous financial period to the International Executive Council (IEC) and the National Sections. Respond to all requests for additional information, with the approval of the President.
6. The Treasurer may serve no more than an eight (8) year period, or two (2) consecutive terms.

ARTICLE 33 (Secretary General/Executive Director).- The Secretary General or Executive Director is responsible for the operational and administrative implementation of the International Secretariat. He/she is also responsible of implementing the decisions made by the International General Assembly (IGA), the International Executive Council (IEC) and the President of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

The Secretary General or Executive Director is appointed by the International Executive Council (IEC), and has the responsibility to supervise the International Secretariat, the regional and international offices and DCI programmes, and develop fundraising projects aimed at financing the organization.

With the prior authorization of the International Executive Council (IEC), the Secretary General and Executive Director is responsible for appointing the office staff of the International Secretariat.

The Secretary General and Executive Director will draft reports upon request from International Executive Council (IEC), and will prepare the Annual Operational Reports and the Annual Report of the International Secretariat for the International General Assembly (IGA). Regarding economic and financial reports, the Secretary General and Executive Director will work in coordination with the Treasurer.

Where possible support regions in the development of regional and intercontinental projects and where appropriate provide technical knowledge and facilitate access to potential partners.

Provide regular information on the agenda of international human rights mechanisms, relevant to the objectives of the National Sections and those of other members of the Movement. The relationship between the International Secretariat and the members shall be governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Secretary General and Executive Director may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms, or a twelve (12) year period.

ARTICLE 34 (Permanent and special supporting mechanisms).- Within its powers, the International Executive Council (IEC) may create technical support, coordinating , advisory and liaison mechanisms, as well as regional representation units. Functions of such mechanisms are to be as follows:

1. The International Executive Council (IEC) may appoint an Advisory Committee as

entity of permanent support, with functions consisting in, inter alia, carrying out studies and proposing technical recommendations on specific topics requested by the IEC.

2. The function of the Advisory Committee is to support the work of the International Executive Council (IEC) on specific matters and to act as a neutral body for the resolution of conflicts.
3. The function of regional and international offices includes advancing the Movement's institutional work in cities and regions which are remotely located from the Movement's official head office and which require special attention. Regional offices should coordinate their activities and work with the Vice-President of the corresponding region.

ARTICLE 35 (Electoral Committee.) - The Electoral Committee shall be appointed by the International Executive Council (IEC) one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the regular International General Assembly (IGA), will be composed by members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) without any conflict of interests, and will have the following duties:

1. Determine the compliance of National Sections with the requirements stated in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 12 of the present statutes, and for associate members paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 17, taking into consideration the reports provided by the Treasury and the International Secretariat.
2. For candidates to the International Executive Council (IEC), determine the compliance with the requirements of Article 26.
3. **(Pronouncement)** Pronouncement of members must take place one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the regular International General Assembly (IGA), and will have immediate effect; notification will be given to all members and associate members by electronic means.
4. **(Revocation and Appeal Procedures)** Pronouncements shall be subject to revocation by appeal to the International Executive Council (IEC), which must be presented on a well-founded basis with the respective supporting documentation, within the first thirty (30) days of official notification.
5. The International Executive Council (IEC) may uphold or overturn the resolution within thirty (30) days.
6. When upholding the resolution, this must be made subject to appeal, prior consideration by the International General Assembly (IGA), who will make the final ruling.

TITLE IV: Special Provisions

Chapter I: Financial, administrative patrimonial regime

ARTICLE 36 (Institutional assets).- The assets of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN -

INTERNATIONAL (DCI) will be legally registered, at domestic and international levels, under the name of DCI and will concretely include the following assets:

1. Movable and immovable property acquired by whatever token.
2. Assets acquired by whatever token for the fulfilment of the organization's purposes, such as money, income, stocks, shares, rights and tangible and intangible assets.
3. Contributions from its members and payment for services rendered within the framework of its activities.

ARTICLE 37 (Legal Representation and Delegation).- Any contract or agreement of economic nature shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer, or other member of the International Executive Council (IEC). Only they have the power to represent the organization in legal acts and property transfers, and may delegate the day-to-day management of the association to the Secretary General and Executive Director.

The delegation of signature and bank account management is to be agreed by the President and the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 37 bis. (Powers).- The International Executive Council (IEC) is to have the most extensive powers concerning the administration and management of the organization, as stated by law and the present statutes. Principally the IEC may, inter alia, draft and adopt all actions and contracts, purchase, exchange, sell all movable or immovable property, mortgage, borrow, bring leases of any length to a close, accept legacies, grants, donations and transfers; relinquish all rights; delegate power to a representative of choice – associates or not, represent or delegate representation of the association in court, as actor or respondent. Equally, the IEC can appoint or dismiss personnel from the organization, determine remuneration, confer powers and mandates, and delegate representation. The IEC can charge or receive in any sum or value and claim refunds. Open accounts with any financial organization, public or private, and carry out all operations with such accounts and make use of all the services made available by the organization. It may make payments of sums owed by the association, collect letters, telegrams, parcels, registered or not, and other document originating from any other means of communication, proceeding from La Poste (post office), customs, railway company or any other organization, make rental payments and issue receipts. It can draw-up cover letters, invoices and generally any type of commercial document.

ARTICLE 38 (Financial administration).- All assets and income of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) will be used exclusively to achieve the aims and objectives put forward by the Movement and fulfil all approved plans, budgets and obligations.

ARTICLE 39 (Organizational Responsibility). - Legally contracted obligations subscribed to by legitimate representatives, will be exclusively guaranteed by assets which constitute the association's resources.

ARTICLE 40 (Resignation and property consolidation). - A member or associate member of staff, who for whatever reason resigns or is expelled from DEFENCE FOR

CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI), will have no right to claim refunds, participation, compensation or financial indemnity from the organization.

ARTICLE 41 (Financial Year). - The financial year of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) runs from the 1st of January until the 31st of December. Annual accounts and budget for the following financial period are to be approved by the International Executive Council (IEC). The International General Assembly (IGA) is to approve the accounts for the previous financial period and the budget presented to it by the International Executive Council (IEC) or Treasurer.

Chapter II: Statutes reforms.

ARTICLE 42 (Procedures). - The present statutes are subject to amendments proposed by the International General Assembly (IGA) during meetings wherein such matter has been expressly raised and having obtained the vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the members present.

The President shall inform the members, at least three (3) months before the International General Assembly (IGA) takes place, of the draft amendments approved by the International Executive Council (IEC).

Members who have the right to vote can propose amendments, considered necessary, one (1) month before the Assembly and discuss the proposed amendment during the Assembly. The amendment will take effect the following day of its approval.

Chapter III: Languages.

ARTICLE 43 (Working languages).- DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) officially and regularly makes use of three languages in all its working documents: English, Spanish and French. Within its capacities, the International Secretariat will provide written and oral services in these three languages.

Chapter IV: (Dissolution).

ARTICLE 44 - DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) has an unlimited duration, thus dissolution may solely be decided by an Extraordinary Assembly summoned for such purpose, in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 24 of the present statutes.

ARTICLE 45 (Liquidation).- Once the dissolution of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL (DCI) has been decided, the Assembly will appoint a Commission to proceed in the liquidation of the assets and liabilities. Having liquidated liabilities and expenses, all remaining assets will be attributed to an organization which pursues objectives of public interest, similarly to that of DCI and which benefits from tax exemption. The founders or founding members may by no means repossess the remaining assets, nor use them, fully or partially, for personal gain or in any other form.

The choosing of one or more beneficiaries will be decided by resolution, upon vote of at

least two thirds (2/3) of members present at the International General Assembly (IGA), which determines the dissolution and applicable Swiss legislation (national, inter-cantonal and local) in such case.

Chapter V: Voting by Internet or fax

ARTICLE 46 Electronic voting (or voting by fax) for National Sections and eligible members, is to be recognised as a means of consultation and decision-making, to be used upon request of the International Executive Council (IEC).

Electronic voting is to be used when requested by the International Executive Council (IEC) for the sole purpose of amending statutory clauses which do not make reference to essential and structural aspects of the organization. The International Executive Council (IEC) may fix a meeting within a shorter period of time of that set out in Article 42. Other provisions contained in such Article, concerning the quorum and majority required, are to remain applicable.

Votes are to be valid prior verification carried out by the International Secretariat regarding the eligibility of voters according to the present statutes and the email address and registered electronic signature.

(Appeal) Appeal for revocation to the International Executive Council (IEC) must be well-founded and supported by resolution of the International Secretariat within fifteen (15) days of notification to the affected party.

The International Executive Council (IEC) shall have fifteen (15) days to decide on the appeal brought forward. The decision is to have definitive effect.