

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
DÉFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL
DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL



THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



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ADOPTED STATUTES

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Statutes of Defence for Children International

Adopted at the XIIIth International General Assembly

Meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 11 November 2022

PREAMBLE

Children 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.

Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth”, DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) affirms that all children must be respected and that their fundamental human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights – be guaranteed without any discrimination, regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, religion, personal or family situation. Children’s agency should be also recognised, and they should be further empowered to advocate for and to claim their rights.

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

DCI coordinated the NGO input to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child up to its adoption in 1989, and since then DCI works on its implementation. DCI is an independent international organisation, governed by these Statutes and the provisions articulated within Article 60 (and following) of the Swiss Civil Code, relating to non-profit organisations.

DCI promotes and protects the human rights of children at the local, national, regional and international levels, in accordance with international standards. DCI work is grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

The Movement of DCI (hereinafter referred to as “the Movement”) is comprised of DCI and National Sections worldwide. DCI runs the International Secretariat for the Movement in Geneva. The DCI World Service Foundation (WSF) and regional desks are under the remit of the International Secretariat. National Sections are the DCI representatives in each country and are generally known as DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL - COUNTRY NAME (DCI - COUNTRY ABBREVIATION).

DCI, National Sections, associate members and individual supporting members are independent bodies (legally, financially and administratively), which work together to promote and protect children’s rights all around the world.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

For the purposes of DCI, children are all human beings below the age of 18. The Movement works to:

1. Recognise every child as a rights-holder and empower children to claim their rights.
2. Listen to and involve children in DCI's work to ensure respect for their rights, involve children in all matters that affect them and ensure that due weight is given to children's views.
3. Raise awareness of children's rights at local, national, regional and global levels.
4. Clearly reflect a child rights-based approach in all its documentation and mission statements.
5. Adopt a twofold approach to further the realisation of the rights of all children as set out in the Convention by a) developing the capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil rights and b) developing the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights.
6. Proactively and constructively inform and influence policy makers and service providers on children's rights, at local, national, regional and international levels.
7. Contribute to the development of legislation and policies and their implementation in accordance with the rights of all children as set out in the Convention through national, regional or international projects and programmes.

TITLE I: GENERAL CLAUSES

ARTICLE 1 - Establishment and name

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL, abbreviated as "DCI", is an independent international organisation, established 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 organisations.

ARTICLE 2 - Location and duration

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) as well as its International Secretariat (IS) are located in Geneva, Switzerland. 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

DCI takes actions to promote the individual and collective human rights of children at local, national, regional and international levels.

ARTICLE 4 - Objectives

The general objectives of DCI are as follows:

1. To promote, defend and develop the human rights of every child.
2. To assist and defend children whose rights are threatened, restricted or violated.
3. To enhance child participation in all DCI work and empower children to claim their rights and support the establishment of child-friendly spaces and child-led advocacy.
4. To advocate for and raise awareness of children's rights and their experiences, at local, national, regional and global levels.
5. To implement projects and initiatives to directly monitor and effectively protect the rights of the child, particularly in geographical areas where issues are not addressed by existing organisations.
6. To expose violations of children's rights using all mechanisms at DCI's disposal.
7. To advocate for accountability and implementation of remedies at national and international levels for violations of children's rights.

8. To monitor the development and implementation of public policies, laws and other actions at local, national, regional and international levels.

ARTICLE 5 - Non-profit structure

The non-profit structure of 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 Organisation.

TITLE II: NATURE OF THE ORGANISATION

CHAPTER I: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

ARTICLE 6 - Definition

Members of DCI are natural or legal persons, individual or collective, who have been accepted as members of the Organisation in the position of: National Section, Associate Member or individual supporting member as established within the present Statutes.

The names "DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL", "DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL", "DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL", "الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال" and their respective abbreviations DEI, DNI and DCI are the property of DCI and may only be used by societies, organisations or individuals who have been accepted as members of the Organisation in accordance with the present Statutes.

ARTICLE 7 - Admission requirements

A two-thirds majority vote of the International General Assembly (IGA) (hereafter referred to as "the International General Assembly" or "the IGA") is required to admit a new member of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI).

Between assemblies, the International Executive Council (IEC) (hereafter referred to as "the International Executive Council" or "the IEC") will have the capacity to provisionally admit National Sections or new members (associate or individual supporting members). Provisional admission must be ratified at the following IGA as per the conditions defined in the present Statutes.

To be admitted, each person or entity must be committed to the general objectives and statement of principles of DCI, in all operations and activities concerning children.

CHAPTER II: MEMBERS**Section I: National Sections****ARTICLE 8 - Definition**

National Sections are the institutional representation of DCI in a country.

ARTICLE 9 - Requirements

The general requirements for admission of a National Section are:

1. Establish or continue to operate as a national non-profit organisation which is in line with the mission and objectives of DCI. The National Section is established in accordance with national law on non-profit organisations.
2. Abide by the principles, values and requirements of the present Statutes (Preamble, Articles 4 and 7).
3. Be supported by at least six human rights experts or advocates from the country concerned.
4. Use the name and the national logo of the Organisation in one of the four official languages (Defence for Children International - DCI; Défense des Enfants International - DEI; Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional - DNI); الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال; in accordance with Articles 6 and 12 of the present Statutes.
5. Attend the IGA and other meetings organised by DCI at regional and international levels.

Governance

1. Submit a copy of the National Section's anti-fraud and corruption policy (and any updates thereto) to the IS.
2. Submit a copy of the National Section's statutes (and any updates there to) to the IS and, if applicable, the records or minutes of its general assemblies.
3. Submit on an annual basis, in one of the official DCI languages, a copy of the following National Section documents to the IS: the list of members (if applicable), the list of members of the Executive Council or Supervisory Board (with the names, addresses, e-mail, personal phone number) and the name and details of the Director/Coordinator of the National Section.

Annual reporting and information sharing

1. At least on a quarterly basis, share and exchange information with the IS on the activities of the National Section.
2. Disseminate information at national level on the mission, aims and the activities of the Movement.
3. Contribute to the annual report of the IS and to the newsletters.
4. Advocate on the international level for example by providing input into drafts and position papers produced by the International Secretariat and shared with the National Sections, by keeping informed and seeking the support of the IS for reporting, statements, press releases, etc. that are disseminated at national level.
5. Always inform the IS in advance any time a representative from the National Section is travelling to Geneva for official purposes.

ARTICLE 10 - Organisational structure

Only one National Section can exist in each country, unless the IEC authorises the creation of another National Section, under exceptional and well-founded circumstances. Such decision must be ratified by the IGA in accordance with Article 7 of the present Statutes.

In any given country, the territoriality rule, according to which a National Section is the only one officially authorised to act in the name of DCI, must be respected. Any action or activity initiated by another National Section should be coordinated with and have received the prior written agreement of the National Section established in that country, in consultation with the IS.

Each National Section is legally and financially independent from any other National Sections and from DCI. As set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), all parties are independent bodies (legally, financially and administratively), and work together to promote and protect children's rights all around the world.

ARTICLE 11 – Rights

The rights of National Sections are as follows:

1. To undertake activities and represent DCI in their country, in accordance with the Principles and the Strategic Framework of the Movement.
2. To request technical assistance from the International Executive Council /International Secretariat to fulfil the Organisation's objectives.

3. To propose – via the International Secretariat – resolutions to the IGA regarding the Movement's policies and activities or regarding amendments to these Statutes.
4. Have one representative eligible to vote during the IGA.

Voluntary withdrawal

The present Statutes, in line with Swiss legislation, authorise each member to withdraw from DCI, 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 DCI (Articles 25.4 and 27.7).
2. Pay the annual fee before the end of the first semester of each calendar year.
3. Submit to the IS on an annual basis a copy of their formal annual report and financial statements and where the law or statutes require, external auditing reports from an independent auditor.
4. Implement the vision and the mission of the Movement, as defined in the present Statutes, the [Strategic Framework](#), the [Child Safeguarding Policy and Principles](#), the [Code of Ethics and Gender Policy](#) (and any other policy adopted by the Movement).
5. Submit a copy of the National Section's child safeguarding policy (and any updates thereto) to the IS.
6. Work in coordination and collaboration with the International Secretariat and other National Sections, particularly at regional level, but also internationally where appropriate.
7. Use the official DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) logo and Visual Identity Guidelines in all official communications and media images.
8. 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 general assemblies, will interrupt any services or other privileges linked to

membership, and will be considered by the IEC for decision (suspension).

Section II: Associate members

ARTICLE 13 - Definition

National or international organisations which are not National Sections can be Associate Members of DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) if they work towards and fulfil the Organisation's objectives.

ARTICLE 14 - Admission

The admission of an Associate Member can be carried out directly by the International Executive Council in countries with no existing National Sections. When a request is made from a country with a pre-existing National Section, the respective National Section must be consulted before a decision is taken by the IEC.

ARTICLE 15 - Conditions

The conditions required to be recognised as an associate member are:

1. The presentation of an associate membership application which demonstrates acceptance of DCI principles and purpose.
2. Registration as a non-profit organisation.
3. Where appropriate, receive positive feedback from any pre-existing National Section.
4. Submission of an action plan or other relevant document which demonstrates interinstitutional compatibility.
5. The Organisation must be recommended by at least six national human rights experts or advocates of the country concerned.
6. Provisional approval by the International Executive Council.

ARTICLE 16 - Rights

The rights of Associate Members are:

1. To request technical assistance from the International Executive Council /International Secretariat to fulfil DCI's objectives.
2. To have observer status at the IGA with the right to speak but no voting rights.
3. To withdraw associate membership from DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) after submitting a formal communication to

the International Executive Council 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 signed with the IS of DCI.
2. Submit an annual narrative and financial report.
3. Pay the annual associate membership fee before the end of the first semester of each calendar year.

Section III: Individual supporting members

ARTICLE 18 - Definition

Supporting members are individuals who are registered as such with DCI, providing that there is no existing National Section or organisation which holds the status of DCI Associate Member in their respective countries.

Their obligations and activities will be defined by the IEC in a Memorandum of Understanding with the IS of DCI, as established in Articles 25.4 and 27.7.

Section IV: Common norms for 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 National Section or other member which are contrary to DCI's objectives and principles; to the non-payment of annual fees for two consecutive years; the failure to submit an annual activity report and financial statements; as well as the failure to collaborate with the International Secretariat and the rest of the Movement.

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

The suspension will also result in the suspension of the right to participate in or vote within the various bodies of DCI.

Suspension or expulsion will be communicated by the International Secretariat to international organisations, government agencies and non-

governmental organisations with whom DCI is involved.

Notifications

Formal notification of disciplinary actions by means of electronic addresses is to be considered valid. In the absence of an electronic address, the last known postal address will be used.

ARTICLE 20 - Revocation and appeal

The National Section, Associate Member or supporting member may appeal, without suspensive effect, all disciplinary actions taken by the IEC. The appeal must be well-founded and filed with the IEC within ninety (90) days of notification of the action.

Within forty-five (45) days of receipt of an appeal, the IEC shall 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, wherein a final decision will be made by a majority of two thirds.

ARTICLE 21 - Internal disciplinary actions of staff members and avoidance of conflict of interest

National Sections and Associate Members will ensure accountability for actions taken by their representatives and employees, including with regard to Article 12.4 of these Statutes. In such cases they must apply internal disciplinary procedures which guarantee due process, to ensure specific sanctions for each case.

In the case of a staff member's conduct which could jeopardise or cause reputational harm to the Movement, National Sections and Associate Members have a responsibility to ensure the appropriate disciplinary action, following the regulations set out by national statutes, and to report such conduct to the IEC.

A governing body member shall be deprived of his/her right to vote in decisions relating to an issue or a process of DCI governing bodies in which himself/herself, a staff member or other actor of his/her section, or his/her extended family, are parties to the case (Article 68 of the Swiss Civil Code).

TITLE III: FUNCTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL REGIME

CHAPTER I: ORGANISATIONAL BODIES

ARTICLE 22 - Organisational structure

DCI has an organisational, hierarchical and functional structure, which connects all of its bodies and components in the following order:

Governing bodies:

1. International General Assembly (IGA)
2. International Executive Council (IEC)
3. Presidency
4. Vice-Presidencies
5. Treasury

Other organisational bodies:

6. International Secretariat (IS)
7. World Service Foundation (WSF)
8. Regional Desks
9. Advisory Committee

Bodies related to the IGA:

10. Electoral Committee
11. Standing Orders Committee

ARTICLE 23 - International General Assembly

The International General Assembly (IGA) of DCI is the highest authority and decision-making body which decides on the most important and decisive actions of the Organisation and therefore of the Movement as a whole. The International Secretariat is the secretariat for the IGA.

Constitution and required quorum

The IGA is composed of representatives of all National Sections, Associate Members and supporting members. The required quorum is three fifths (3/5) of the National Sections officially recognised, legitimately represented and possessing the right to vote. Associate and individual supporting members may participate as observers, with speaking rights but without voting rights.

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 - Ordinary and Extraordinary Assemblies

The International General Assembly holds regular meetings, in principle, every four (4) years.

The IEC shall guarantee the transparency, accessibility and confidentiality of the voting process.

Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

A governing body member shall be deprived of his/her right to vote in decisions relating to an issue or a process of DCI governing bodies in which himself/herself, a staff member or other actor of his/her section, or his/her extended family, are parties to the case (Article 68 of the Swiss Civil Code).

Extraordinary Assemblies

Extraordinary Assemblies can be convened by the IEC or at the request of one quarter (1/4) 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).

ARTICLE 25 - Powers of the International General Assembly

The International General Assembly of DCI, highest and sovereign authority of DCI, has the ability to grant additional powers and rights when deemed necessary and in accordance with the present Statutes. The IGA President is appointed during the previous ordinary International General Assembly.

In particular, its remit covers the following:

1. In case the previously elected IGA President is unavailable, proceed with a new appointment at the beginning of the ordinary International General Assembly.
2. Review the reports of the Electoral Committee.
3. Examine and adopt the agenda proposed by the IEC.
4. Approve the standard Memorandum of Understanding or amendments therein, on proposal of the IEC in accordance with Article 27.7 of the present Statutes.
5. Confirm, on proposal of the IEC, the admission of new members.

6. Approve or reject IEC proposals for expulsion, the suspension of members, or take note of withdrawal and resignation of members if requested.
7. Adopt the Strategic Framework for the Movement.
8. Approve the financial statements of the previous period and the budget for the following four-year period.
9. Adopt the criteria for defining fees for the different categories of members of DCI.
10. Revise and approve proposed amendments to DCI's Statutes.
11. Elect the President, the Treasurer and all other members of the International Executive Council.
12. Review the appeals against disciplinary actions which were taken by the IEC.
13. Appoint the President of the next IGA.
14. Determine the dissolution of DCI by two thirds (2/3) of eligible voters and the required minimum quorum (Article 47).

ARTICLE 26 - International Executive Council

The International Executive Council (IEC) is the governing authority of the Movement between International General Assemblies. According to its [Code of Ethics](#) and to the principle of gender parity, it is made up of maximum thirteen (13) persons and minimum of seven (7) persons, all from different countries, at least one from each of the four (4) regions recognised by the organisational geographic distribution (Europe, MENA-Asia/Oceania, Africa, and Americas).

The IEC includes a Bureau composed of the President, one of the four Vice-Presidents on a rotational basis and the Treasurer. Its role is to support the IS, prepare the IEC meetings and to oversee the work between meetings.

The Electoral Committee has oversight of the implementation of gender parity (50/50) in the IEC. In any event, the IEC should not be composed of more than two thirds (2/3) of members of the same gender. Failing that, the elected members should seek other candidates, within National Sections, to incrementally achieve gender parity. The new composition of the IEC must be communicated to all members within thirty (30) days of the election.

Nomination

Essential conditions to be elected to the 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. Have an appropriate level of expertise and authority for the role.
3. Not exercise any active governmental functions or any other high civil servant positions at national level.
4. Be nominated by their National Section.
5. Not have been a member of the IEC during the three previous terms.

ARTICLE 27 - Duties and responsibilities

The International Executive Council is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Framework, policies and activities approved by an ordinary or extraordinary International General Assembly or the IEC. In addition to this responsibility, it must:

1. Formulate and adopt the Internal Rules & Regulations of the IEC, informing all National Sections and Associate Members thereof.
2. Appoint a Secretary General and/or Executive Director.
3. Oversee the action plans linked to the Movement's Strategic Framework in collaboration with the IS and in accordance with the general guidelines and policies established by the IGA.
4. Fix the annual membership fees based on the guidelines adopted by the IGA.
5. Review and approve the annual reports of DCI.
6. Review and approve DCI's audited annual financial statements presented by the Treasurer.
7. Establish a standard Memorandum of Understanding to regulate the exchanges between the IS of DCI and the different categories of members.
8. Develop and oversee the Movement's institutional relations.
9. Oversee and cooperate with the IS to ensure adequate technical and financial resources.
10. Present a Management Activity Report and send it to all National Sections two (2) months prior to the meeting of the International General Assembly.

11. Appoint an Advisory Committee made up of six (6) members maximum.
12. In time establish ad hoc or permanent regional and international coordination roles or bodies.
13. Provisionally admit National Sections or new members (associate or supporting) following the established criteria and submit these admissions to the IGA for ratification.
14. Exert disciplinary power over the members, that includes the following measures: written reprimand, suspension or proposal of expulsion to the IGA.
15. Exercise disciplinary authority over staff of DCI.
16. Oversee implementation of the policies set out in Article 12.4 above.

ARTICLE 28 - Replacement of members

In the event that the President, Treasurer or a member of the International Executive Council 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. 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 this shall be communicated immediately to all the members of DCI.

In the event of resignation or impediment of half (1/2) of the acting members of the IEC, an Extraordinary General Assembly will be summoned within six months to appoint new members.

ARTICLE 29 - Operational quorum

The 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 IEC.

ARTICLE 30 - Presidency

The President of the Movement, elected as set out in Article 25, has the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Act as political representative of DCI at the national and international level.
2. Lead the Movement, promote its vision and stimulate the effectiveness of the DCI Movement.
3. Maintain political contacts with donors and strategic alliances, in coordination with the Secretary General/Executive Director and Vice-Presidents.
4. Chair the IEC.
5. In resolutions of the IEC, cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
6. Oversee implementation of actions decided by the IGA or the IEC.
7. In exceptional cases, delegate legal representation by proxy, to a member of the IEC for the signing of legal documents.
8. Report to the IGA on behalf of the IEC.

ARTICLE 31 - Vice-Presidencies

The International Executive Council includes one Vice-President from each region recognised by the following institutional geographic distribution:

- Europe
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Asia/Oceania
- Africa
- Americas

Vice-Presidents may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Under the authority of the IEC, the Vice-Presidents:

1. Act as political representatives of the Movement within their region.
2. Develop a regional action plan for the Strategic Framework in coordination with National Sections following the guidelines established during the IGA and taking into account the regional context.
3. Represent the Movement when establishing partnerships for the Movement at a regional or international level, in conjunction with the heads or legal representatives of the respective National Sections, where appropriate.
4. Liaise with the National Sections in the region, the IEC and the IS.

5. Encourage a strong regional culture and ownership to ensure the effectiveness of the Movement.
6. Promote the strengthening of DCI within their region, DCI's international/regional agenda and the ongoing dialogue among National Sections.
7. Actively contribute to the IEC and coordinate with the IS.

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/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 DCI and present it to the IEC for approval.
3. Request and monitor payment of annual fees from National Sections, Associate Members and individual supporting members.
4. Monitor the operational expenditure of the IEC and the IS.
5. Present a general financial report for the previous financial period to the 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/Executive Director is appointed by the IEC. The Secretary General/Executive Director is responsible for the management of the International Secretariat, leading advocacy at international level, communications and fundraising for DCI.

S/he is also responsible for implementing the decisions made by the IGA, the IEC and the DCI President.

With the prior authorisation of the IEC, the Secretary General/Executive Director is responsible for appointing and retaining the office staff of the IS.

The Secretary General/Executive Director drafts reports upon request from the International Executive Council and prepares the Annual Reports and the Annual Report of the IS for the IGA.

Regarding economic and financial reports, the Secretary General/Executive Director works in coordination with the Treasurer and the President.

Where possible, the Secretary General/Executive Director supports regions in the development of regional and intercontinental projects and where appropriate provides technical knowledge and facilitates access to potential partners.

The Secretary General/Executive Director provides regular information on the agenda of international human rights mechanisms, relevant to the objectives of the National Sections and to those of other members of the Movement.

The Secretary General/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 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 IEC may appoint an Advisory Committee made up of six (6) members maximum, as entity of permanent support. The function of the Advisory Committee is to support the work of the IEC on specific matters and to act as a neutral body for the resolution of conflicts.
2. The function of regional and international desks includes advancing the Movement's work.
3. Regional desks must coordinate their activities and work with the IS and the Vice-President of the corresponding region.

ARTICLE 35 - Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee shall be appointed by the International Executive Council one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the ordinary International General Assembly. The Committee will be composed by members of DCI without any conflict of interest, 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 Article 17, taking into

consideration the reports provided by the Treasury and the International Secretariat.

2. For candidates to the IEC, determine the compliance with the requirements of Article 26.
3. (Pronouncement) Pronouncement of members must take place sixty (60) days prior to the ordinary IGA and will have immediate effect; notification will be given to all National Sections and Associate Members by electronic means.
4. (Revocation and Appeal Procedures) Pronouncements shall be subject to revocation by appeal by National Sections to the 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 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 IGA, who will make the final ruling.

ARTICLE 36 - Standing Orders Committee

The IEC shall appoint a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall consist of the President of the IGA as well as of two Vice-Presidents from the IEC.

The Committee shall:

1. Follow and assure that all IGA proceedings are in accordance with the present Statutes and the Standing Orders.
2. Recommend an order of business and time limits for speakers.
3. Report to the IGA on any other questions requiring a decision for the proper conduct of its business.

ARTICLE 37 - Electronic voting

Electronic voting for National Sections and eligible members, is recognised as a valid means of consultation and decision-making.

Electronic voting is to be used when requested by the IEC.

The IEC may fix an ordinary or extraordinary IGA within a shorter period of time than that set out in Article 24. Other provisions contained in Article 24, 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.

TITLE IV: SPECIAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I: FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE PATRIMONIAL REGIME

ARTICLE 38 - Institutional assets

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

1. Movable and immovable property acquired by whatever token.
2. Assets acquired by whatever token for the fulfilment of the Organisation'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 39 - 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 IEC. Only they have the power to represent the Organisation in legal acts and property transfers and may delegate the day-to-day management of the Organisation to the Secretary General/Executive Director.

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

ARTICLE 40 - Powers

The International Executive Council has the most extensive powers concerning the administration and management of the Organisation, 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 Organisation in court, as actor or respondent.

Equally, the IEC can appoint or dismiss personnel from the Organisation, determine remuneration, confer powers and mandates, and delegate representation.

The IEC can charge or receive any sum or value and claim refunds on behalf of DCI. It can open accounts

with any financial organisation, public or private, and carry out all operations with such accounts and make use of all the services made available by these organisations.

It may make payments of sums owed by the Organisation, 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 organisation, make rental payments and issue receipts. It can draw-up cover letters, invoices and generally any type of commercial document.

The IEC can delegate part of these functions to the Executive Director/Secretary General.

ARTICLE 41 - Financial administration

All assets and income of 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 42 - Organisational responsibility

Legally contracted obligations subscribed to by legitimate representatives will be exclusively guaranteed by assets which constitute the Organisation's resources.

ARTICLE 43 - Resignation and property consolidation

A National Section or Associate Member, who for whatever reason withdraws, resigns or is expelled from DCI, will have no right to claim refunds, participation, compensation or financial indemnity from the Organisation.

ARTICLE 44 - Financial year

The financial year of DCI runs from the 1st of January until the 31st of December. Annual accounts and budgets for the following financial period are to be approved by the IEC. The IGA approves the accounts for the previous financial period and the budgets presented to it by the IEC or Treasurer.

CHAPTER II: STATUTES REFORMS

ARTICLE 45 - Procedures

The present Statutes are subject to amendments proposed by the International General Assembly 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 IGA takes place, of the draft amendments approved by the IEC.

Members who have the right to vote can propose amendments, considered necessary, two (2) months 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 46 - Working languages

DCI makes use of four languages in all its working documents: English, Spanish, French and Arabic. Within its capacities and according to regional needs, the International Secretariat and/or regional desks will provide written and oral services in the relevant languages.

CHAPTER IV: DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE 47 - Dissolution

DCI has an unlimited duration; thus, dissolution may solely be decided by an Extraordinary International Assembly summoned for such purpose, in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 24 of the present Statutes.

ARTICLE 48 - Liquidation

Once the dissolution of DCI has been decided, the IGA will appoint a Commission to proceed with the liquidation of the assets and liabilities. Having liquidated liabilities and expenses, all remaining assets will be attributed to an organisation 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, which determines the dissolution and applicable Swiss legislation (national, inter-cantonal and local) in such case.