

**WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL LAW  
(WAML)**

**BYLAW**

**Article One**

The name of the corporation shall be the "WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL LAW" (referred to hereinafter as (the "Association")).

**Article Two**

The purpose of the Association shall be: (i) to encourage the study and discussion of problems concerning health law, legal medicine, public health law and bioethics, and their possible solution in ways that are beneficial to humanity and advancement of human rights; (ii) to promote the study of the consequences in jurisprudence, legislation and ethics of developments in medicine, health care and related sciences; (iii) to address any matters that involve issues of health law or legal medicine and to inform the public of WAML's deliberations, (iv) to publish a journal, periodic newsletters and disseminate information

**Article Three**

1. The Association shall pursue its purposes by organizing World Congresses for Medical Law which shall include health law, legal medicine and bioethics and carry out other activities consistent with the ethos of the association.
2. Each Congress shall be selected by the Board of Governors and ratified by vote of the General Assembly.
3. The theme and format of each Congress shall be determined by the Program Chair of that Congress in conjunction with the Education Committee.
4. The financial arrangements of each Congress shall be self-supporting and overseen by the WAML Treasurer
5. The Association shall encourage Regional Congresses on health law, forensic/legal medicine and bioethics.
  - a. The Association may support and sponsor regional and national organizations for health law, forensic/legal medicine and bioethics and promote their affiliation with the Association.
  - b. The Association may make arrangements for consultation and cooperation with international, regional and national organizations.
  - c. The Association may sponsor institutes or centers concerned with particular areas of health law, forensic/legal medicine and bioethics.

**Article Four**

1. The revenue of the Association shall consist of membership dues, Congress income, grants from public authorities, and donations from institutions, foundations and private people.
2. Grants and donations must be consistent with the moral integrity and scientific and financial independence of the Association.

**Article Five**

1. Membership of the Association shall be open to those who have graduated from a university or equivalent academic institution with appropriate qualifications, and who are interested in the fulfillment of the purposes of the Association.
2. Membership shall be granted by the Executive Committee.
3. Emeritus members shall be those members who have ten (10) years of membership with the Association and are at least sixty-five (65) years old. Emeritus membership shall be granted by the Executive Committee.
4. Emeritus members shall not be required to pay dues, but shall remain in the Association directory, and receive all notices including the newsletter and meeting registration discount. Emeritus members shall have voting privileges.
5. Trainee members shall be students enrolled in a professional school in a related discipline to health law, forensic/legal medicine and bioethics. Membership shall be granted by the Executive Committee

**Article Six**

1. An application for membership shall be addressed to the Secretary General, or to a Governor who shall refer the application to the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall verify that the application complies with Article 5 (1) and shall refer the application to the Executive Committee for approval.
2. A register of membership shall be kept under the authority of the Secretary General.

**Article Seven**

Paid-up Members of the Association shall be entitled, *inter alia*, to: (i) attend and vote in person at the General Assembly; (ii) stand for election to the Board of Governors if so qualified; (iii) be appointed to Association committees, as provided in the Association's Bylaws; and (iv) enjoy specific benefits, rights and reduced fees available only to Members of the Association.

#### **Article Eight**

Membership shall terminate upon: (i) resignation; (ii) non-payment of membership dues for two consecutive years; (iii) expulsion decided by a two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting of the Board of Governors; or (iv) death.

#### **Article Nine**

Membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee to be approved by the Board of Governors of the Association.

#### **Article Ten**

1. Regional, national and other organizations and centers active in the fields of health law, legal/forensic medicine and bioethics may be affiliated with the Association by decision of the Board of Governors.
2. Applications for affiliation shall be addressed to the Secretary General or to a Governor, who shall refer the application to the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall verify that the application complies with the Association's objectives and, on approval of the Executive Committee, shall transmit the application to the Board of Governors for their approval.
3. Affiliation shall terminate by a decision of the regional national or other organization or center, or of the Board of Governors.
4. A register of affiliated Associations shall be maintained by the Secretary General.

#### **Article Eleven**

The organs of the Association shall be the General Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee and other committees and councils as determined from time to time.

#### **Article Twelve**

The General Assembly shall comprise current paid in full members of the Association. Each member shall have one vote which must be cast in person.

#### **Article Thirteen**

1. General Assembly shall meet ordinarily on the occasion of the World Congress. Reports to the General Assembly shall cover matters arising since the previous General Assembly, including:
  - (i) the report of the President;
  - (ii) the report of the Secretary General;
  - (iii) the report of the Treasurer;
  - (iv) the report of the organs and committees of the Association as determined from time to time
  - (v) the election of members to fill vacancies on the Board of Governors from a list of candidates presented by the Board of Governors;
  - (vi) determination of membership dues;
  - (vii) additional issues as proposed by the Board of Governors, a member of the Executive Committee or raised by an attending Member and
  - (viii) election of three members of the Audit Committee.

#### **Article Fourteen**

Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly may be convened by the General Assembly, by the Board of Governors or by the Executive Committee at the request of at least two-thirds of their members present.

#### **Article Fifteen**

1. The General Assembly shall elect members of the Board of Governors to fill vacant seats for a four-year period.
2. Not more than one governor can come from the same country with the exception of the Immediate Past President.
3. Eligibility to be a Governor includes: attending at least two World Congresses; being an active member for at least two years; submitting a nomination within the stipulated timeframe; providing adequate support to justify endorsement; and being present during the relevant World Congress.
4. Should a Governor fail to attend two consecutive World Congresses for Medical Law without due cause, tenure of office can terminate subject to review.
5. Members of the Board of Governors shall normally be eligible for no more than two consecutive re-elections. A third or later re-election of a Governor shall be possible on recommendation of the Board of Governors
6. The President may appoint ad hoc sub-committees from amongst the Association's membership.
7. The immediate Past-President shall remain a member of the Board of Governors

#### **Article Sixteen**

1. A list of candidates for election to the Board by the General Assembly shall be submitted by the Board of Governors.

2. The list of candidates shall contain:
  - a. the nominees of the Board of Governors: and
  - b. Any Association member whose candidature has arisen in accordance with Article 17.
3. The Executive Committee shall set qualifications necessary to be a candidate for Governor.

#### **Article Seventeen**

Candidatures for the Board of Governors, including Board members whose period will expire under Article 15(2), shall be addressed to the Secretary General at least three months before the commencement of the next World Congress.

1. Members of the Board of Governors who are not nominated by the Board shall be entitled to stand for re-election, if their term as Governor permits, until the closing of the list of candidates to be presented to the General Assembly.

#### **Article Eighteen**

1. The location and the date of the World Congresses will be decided by the Board of Governors.

#### **Article Nineteen**

1. The President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Vice-Presidents of the Association shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among its members for a two-year period.
2. Each Vice-President shall, if possible, come from a separate continent.
3. One of the Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Board of Governors as the Executive Vice-President.
4. The President or, if the President is unavailable, the Executive Vice-President shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the organs of the Association, other than those of the Audit Committee, and shall be invited to all such meetings and be informed about their outcome.

The board may, by majority vote of members present, appoint any former President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-President, or Governor, who has served the Association with distinction as Honorary President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-President, or Governor respectively. They shall be invited to the meetings of the Board without voting rights.

#### **Article Twenty**

Membership of the Board of Governors shall terminate upon

- a. Expiration of the period under Article 16 (16(4))
- b. Resignation:
- c. Appointment as a member of the Audit Committee;
- d. Decision of a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Governors; or
- e. Failure to pay annual membership fees for two consecutive years;
- f. Death.

#### **Article Twenty-One**

The Board of Governors may delegate any of its powers to the Executive Committee.

#### **Article Twenty-Two**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Executive Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. The Immediate Past President may attend meetings with full voting rights. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be valid only if at least three members are present.

#### **Article Twenty-Three**

1. The meeting of the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee shall be held in conjunction with the World Congress meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Governors may be held at any time upon call of the President by electronic means.
2. Decisions of the Board of Governors shall be valid only if at least half of their elected members are present.

#### **Article Twenty-Four**

1. The Association, through the Secretary General, shall inform affiliated organizations of its activities, provide them with advice on request and assist them when possible.
2. Affiliated regional or national organizations shall keep the Association, through its Secretary General, informed of their activities related to health law, legal/forensic medicine, and /or bioethics in their respective regions or countries.

#### **Article Twenty-Five**

1. The President shall be the official representative of the Association.
2. The President shall be eligible for re-election under Article 20(1) as long as they are a member of the Board of Governors.

3. The President shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the organs of the Association, other than those of the Audit Committee, and shall be invited to all such meetings and be informed of their outcome.
4. The President shall submit periodic reports to the Board of Governors.
5. The President shall appoint organs and committees of the association as approved by the Executive Committee
6. The President shall oversee the management of the Association and Chair the Board of Governors Meeting.
7. Should the President wish to nominate a substitute person to represent the Association, it will be with ratification of the Executive Committee.
8. The President shall represent the Association before legal tribunals and shall be responsible under the direction of the Board of Governors for any litigation.

#### **Article Twenty-Six**

1. The Executive Vice President shall be eligible for reelection as long as they are a member of the Board of Governors.
2. The Executive Vice President shall act for the President in the event that the President is unable to perform Presidential duties.
3. The Executive Vice President will succeed as an interim measure to the office of President should the President die, resign or otherwise permanently be unable to perform Presidential duties.
4. An extraordinary Board of Governor meeting will be convened within three (3) months to vote for the new President.

#### **Article Twenty-Seven**

1. The Secretary General shall be eligible for re-election under Article 20(1) as long as they are a member of the Board of Governors.
2. The Secretary General shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the organs of the Association, other than those of the Audit Committee, and shall be invited to all such meetings and be informed of their outcome.
3. The Secretary General shall take minutes of the proceedings, where appropriate, issue notices to members and conduct correspondence. They shall submit periodic reports to the Board of Governors.
4. The Secretary General shall exercise all powers delegated by the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee.

#### **Article Twenty-Eight**

1. The Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election under Article 20(1) as long as they are a member of the Board of Governors.
2. The Treasurer shall handle the Association's funds and shall maintain the books of account, with records of income and expenditures.
3. The treasurer shall submit a report of the Association's expenditures, income and financial status to the Audit Committee on April 30 of each year.
4. The Treasurer shall submit an annual financial report and budget to the Board of Governors as provided in Article 32.6.

#### **Article Twenty-Nine**

1. The Audit Committee shall consist of three Members of the Association who are not members of the Board of Governors. The members of the Audit Committees shall be nominated by the Board of Governors and elected by majority vote of the General Assembly. Members shall hold office for four years and automatically be eligible for election twice. Further term(s) may be possible at the discretion of the Board of Governors. Apart from expiration of the term of appointment, membership shall terminate by:
  - a. Resignation,
  - b. Election to the Board of Governors
  - c. Failure to pay annual membership fee for two consecutive years, or death.
2. A vacancy before expiration of a members' term shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification of the Board of Governors.
3. The Audit Committee shall present a report to the Board of Governors by June 30 of each year.
4. The Audit Committee shall report, in writing, its findings on expenditure compliance with the Association's Bylaws and of decisions of the Board of Governors. It may make recommendations regarding the Association's management.
5. The Audit committee shall present a single report, but members shall be entitled to present individual findings and recommendations and a dissenting view.

#### **Article Thirty**

All of the Articles of these Bylaws, with the exception of Article 31, may be amended by approval of the General Assembly by a resolution adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present.

#### **Article Thirty-One**

The Association may be dissolved only by a resolution of the General Assembly adopted by a two-thirds majority of members of the Association. If two-thirds are not present an extraordinary meeting may be called by the President having the same item(s) on the agenda. The Resolution must be adopted a two-thirds majority vote of those present.

#### **Article Thirty-Two**

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, any remaining assets shall accrue to the World Health Organization, Geneva (Switzerland)