

CONSTITUTION of INTERNATIONAL YOUTH HEALTH ORGANIZATION

I. BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

International Youth Health Organization (also referred to hereinafter as: YHO) is an international voluntary network organization, whose members are youth associations, youth networks, and through them, individuals. YHO works towards assuring wellbeing of young people, through promotion of healthy lifestyle, prevention of and adaptation to non-communicable diseases, including mental health, prevention and reduction of harm due to unhealthy life choices and creation of a positive environment for young people to develop to their full potential. It develops and supports evidence-based and effective policies to assure healthy lifestyles and environments for young people. This is achieved through building capacity of youth organizations on:

- research on and with young people
- advocacy of effective and comprehensive policies and
- attitudes and behavioural changes that would improve young people's health and wellbeing.

Article 2

YHO is a nongovernmental, independent, voluntary, non-partisan and non-profit organization, working for public interest. YHO is not associated in any way with alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, pharmaceutical and fossil fuel industries.

Article 3

The official name of the organization shall be “Mednarodna zveza za zdravje mladih – International Youth Health Organization”. The official abbreviation shall be: “Zveza YHO” (YHO Network). The YHO’s headquarters are in Ljubljana.

Article 4

YHO has its own stamp that represents the logo in red. It is rectangular and has a ratio of 3,5 cm x 5 cm. It contains the inscription »Mednarodna zveza za zdravje mladih – International Youth Health Organization«.

Article 5

The Board proposes the Legal Representative who has to be confirmed at the General Assembly. Only a member of a Full member organization can become a Legal Representative of the network. Full members may propose their members to the Board to be appointed as a Legal Representative.

The Legal Representative of YHO is responsible for its legal work and finance planning and implementation.

II. AIM, GOALS AND TASKS

Article 6

YHO's aim is to:

Raise the interest of youth organizations in health policies, project work on health related topics, youth research in the field of health and prevention of non-communicable diseases, including mental health and Informing youth organizations about the possibility of participating in international activities.

YHO's goals are:

- To have at least one member in every European country (primarily) and the rest of the World (secondarily).
- Become and remain a relevant interlocutor for local, national and international institutions in the field of health policies and youth.
- Carry out activities, which will be regularly confirmed by YHO's working bodies
- Place the health issue higher on national and international agendas of governments and local communities.
- Rely on evidence-based data on health related topics.
- Be a relevant actor in the field of health policies in Europe.
- Be a generator of scientific data for the field of youth and health.

Article 7

To achieve its aims and goals, YHO carries out the following local, national, and international non-profit-making activities in the field of youth health:

- Seminars and conferences.
- International youth exchanges and other types of mobility.
- Study visits to promote good practices among the members.
- Issuing publications, policy papers and other documents related to Youth Health.
- Training courses, workshops and online activities to develop skills and competences of members of the network.
- Preparatory meetings to organize the above mentioned activities.

- Public events that aim to increase the recognition of the network and its work.
- Consultations to member organizations, expert institutions, governments, and others on the topic of youth health.
- Support member organizations with technical and financial support for local, national, and international activities.

Activities of YHO are contained in the Work Plan adopted by the General Assembly.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 8

All YHO members are youth organizations.

YHO has three types of membership:

- Full members
- Associate members
- Network members

An association or federation of associations (hereinafter addressed as organizations) can only become full member if it fulfills all conditions to become a full member. Associate member is an association or federation of associations that wants to join YHO and does not fulfill the conditions to be a full member yet. Network member is a youth organization that works in line with YHO mission and vision that does not meet conditions for associate or full membership, but support the goals of YHO.

An organization can become a full member of YHO after one year of being an associate member.

Article 9

YHO membership is voluntary. An association wishing to become a member of YHO submits a membership application to YHO. The fulfillment of membership requirements is reviewed by the Board, which submits a proposal for membership approval to the General Assembly, and the General Assembly confirms the membership.

An association can become a member if it meets the conditions specified in this article, completes a membership application with its details expressing its intent to become a member of the organization, commits to operating in accordance with the organization's constitution, and pays the membership fee, if this is required.

In order to become a full or an associate member, an organization must:

- be youth-led with at least 90 percent of its membership and 70 percent of its leadership

- aged between 15 and 29 years,
- state in its founding act that it operates in the field of youth, and
- not be connected to the alcohol or tobacco industry.

In addition to the conditions specified in the previous paragraph, full members must also meet the following requirements:

- they operate at both the local and national or international levels,
- they have at least one active obligation in the field of youth health.

An association or federation of associations that meets all the conditions outlined in this article and has held the status of an associate member for at least one year may obtain full membership status by signing a cooperation agreement with YHO.

The active obligation referred to in point 2 of the fourth paragraph of this article means a project or activity of an full member of YHO that demonstrates its active involvement in the field in which the federation operates. If the Board or the General Assembly determines that a full member is not fulfilling at least one active obligation, the member must commence such an activity within three months of the determination.

Article 10

YHO network and associate members' rights are to:

- help create and execute YHO's programme.
- have proposing rights at the General Assembly.
- receive support from YHO in their work, in accordance with YHO's capacities,
- be informed about the organization's activities.

In addition to the above-mentioned rights, the rights of full members of YHO are to:

- elect their representatives to YHO bodies,
- have their representatives elected to YHO bodies,
- participate in the management of YHO,
- access YHO's material and financial operations,
- vote at the General Assembly.

The duties of YHO members are to:

- contribute to the development and implementation of YHO's program,

- act in accordance with the statutes and other acts of YHO,
- respect the decisions of YHO bodies,
- regularly pay the annual membership fee, if determined by the Assembly,
- actively participate in the management of YHO,
- fulfill agreed obligations to YHO,
- protect YHO's reputation,
- act in the interest of YHO,
- inform YHO about their activities and matters relevant to its work.

The annual membership fee varies for all three types of membership. The Assembly may exempt a member from paying the annual fee for a specific year, based on a request, if the member cannot afford it. The amount of the fee for each type of membership is calculated using a formula that includes several factors, such as geographic determinants and the income of the member organization. The formula is defined in the Membership Fee Regulations.

Article 11

Membership in YHO ends:

- by resignation,
- by removal,
- by expulsion.

A member resigns from YHO by submitting a written statement to the Board of YHO. The Board is responsible for the removal and expulsion of a member.

A member is removed by a confirmation resolution of the Board if:

- despite a reminder, they do not pay the membership fee, although they are obligated to do so,
- it is determined that the member has ceased to exist, or
- it is determined that the member does not meet the membership requirements.

A member may be expelled from the association if it is determined that:

- they have violated the provisions of the statutes or other acts of YHO,
- they have violated the decisions of YHO bodies,
- they have acted against the interests of YHO,

- they have damaged YHO's reputation,
- their actions or omissions have caused or could cause significant harm to YHO,
- they have not attended more than two consecutive General Assemblies.

In the case of a full member not attending more than two consecutive sessions of the YHO General Assembly, the Board may decide to change the full member's status to that of an associate member if the member requests such a change in membership type. If the member does not make such a request, the Board may expel the member from YHO.

Article 12

YHO also has honorary members. Honorary members of YHO are individuals or organizations with the credit for the development and activity of YHO or its working field. The YHO General Assembly appoints honorary members, based on YHO members' and Board's suggestions, .

Honorary members who are not also members of YHO do not have the rights and duties of members, but they may attend meetings of the General Assembly.

IV. YHO BODIES

Article 13

YHO collective bodies are:

- The General Assembly;
- The Board;
- The Monitoring Committee.

YHO individual bodies are:

- President;
- Vice-president;
- Regional Coordinator;
- Free Board Member;
- Legal Representative.

All YHO body members' mandate is three years, except for the General Assembly, with a handover period of at least 3 months. Collective body members' can be re-elected to the same position only once. The convener of each separate body meeting sends out the invitation to the body members at least seven days before the meeting, unless the constitution states otherwise.

The same person cannot hold two different positions within YHO. An exception is the Legal

Representative, who can hold a position within the Board or Monitoring Committee at the same time. There can be a maximum of two representatives from the same country and one organization at a time in the Board or Monitoring Committee.

All the meetings of the YHO bodies have to be recorded in written or electronic format.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 14

YHO's highest body is the General Assembly, all the other bodies are accountable to it.

The General Assembly consists of representatives of all YHO members.

A member must appoint a representative(s) upon joining the membership, who will represent them at the General Assembly meetings and in other interactions with the leadership and bodies of the network.

The representatives hold full autonomy regarding any decision on behalf of the organization during the General Assembly.

Article 15

The General Assembly's competences are to:

- Adopt, amend, and supplement the constitution and other general acts, if other YHO bodies are not responsible for them.
- Adopt programme directions and reports from YHO bodies.
- Adopt the yearly report, financial plan and work programme for the next year, on the proposal of the Board.
- Elect and dismiss members of the YHO bodies.
- Award recognitions and prizes of YHO.
- Discuss and decide on directions on acquisition, management or alienation of real estate.
- Decide on ceasing YHO's activity.
- Decide on complaints regarding resolutions of YHO bodies.
- Appoint honorary members.
- Decide whether YHO will introduce a membership fee as an obligation for members,
- Decide on joining other related organizations,
- Decide on other matters based on the statutes and general acts,

- Discuss and decide on all other important matters for YHO.

Article 16

The YHO Board convenes the General Assembly meeting at least once a year for the purpose of adopting the annual report. The convener must send the notice of the General Assembly meeting to the members at least 30 days before the meeting. Meeting of the YHO General Assembly, as well as all bodies and permanent forms of operation, are convened in written or electronic form to the address or email address provided by the members to YHO. The notice of the General Assembly meeting must include the time and place of the meeting, the proposed agenda with proposed resolutions, and the relevant materials necessary for decision-making.

Article 17

The YHO Board can convene extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly on its own initiative or on an initiative by one third of YHO's General Assembly members or at the initiative of the Monitoring Committee, if it claims to have identified serious violations in the operation of YHO. The Board must convene a meeting in 30 days from the day they have received the initiative, otherwise the persons who have submitted the initiative can call for a meeting themselves. A meeting of the General Assembly convened in this manner may only adopt resolutions that were proposed in the notice of the meeting.

The YHO President or the Board can convene a correspondence or a virtual General Assembly, meaning the members do not convene in person and can use a correspondence vote or modern technology to meet virtually to decide on a matter for which the General Assembly was convened. The Extraordinary General Assembly deals only with the issue the meeting was convened for. A correspondence or virtual General Assembly must be convened in 14 days since the official decision of the Board.

For calls, quorum and resolutions validity the same rules apply as for the ordinary General Assembly meetings. All YHO bodies are invited to the General Assembly.

Article 18

The meeting of the General Assembly is chaired by the president, who may select up to three members of the Board or General Assembly to assist with the proceedings. If the president is absent, the meeting is chaired by one of the vice-presidents. The General Assembly has reached a quorum if more than half of the YHO's members' representatives are present at the General Assembly. The General Assembly resolutions are valid when they are accepted by a simple majority of the votes in the room, unless otherwise specified by the constitution. If the General Assembly hasn't reached quorum, there is a waiting time of half an hour, after that, it can continue if the quorum reaches at least one third of the members' representatives.

When the General Assembly is presenting resolutions on adoption or amendments of the YHO constitution at least half the members of the General Assembly have to be present and they have to be voted upon by a two-thirds majority. Amendments should be submitted to the Board at least 30 days before the GA. Amendments of the Constitution should be sent to all members and members' representatives at the General Assembly at least 30 days before the

General Assembly taking place.

Voting in the General Assembly is public, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise. When the General Assembly hasn't reached quorum, the representatives can discuss the topics, but they cannot adopt resolutions.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

Article 19

Permanent organizational structures in YHO are:

- Sections
- Regional Committees

Tasks of individual organizational structures are overseen by the Board at least once a year in accordance with the YHO Work Plan. Candidates for members of permanent forms of operation are nominated by YHO members, and active volunteers within the federation may also run for candidacy.

The Board holds the power to dismiss the appointed members of the committees in cases of violations of the YHO constitution and regulations.

Article 20

Sections are permanent organizational structures that are responsible for the development of different content, thematically related to youth health. These include, but are not limited to tobacco control, alcohol control, nutrition, physical activity, mental health, environmental health, sexual and reproductive health, and other emerging topics.

Each section is coordinated by a section coordinator, who is a volunteer and is appointed by the Board. Only members of full member organizations can be appointed as section coordinators. Any member of full and associate member organizations can become a member of a section. One person can be a member of multiple sections.

Every section convenes at least once per year.

A new section can be established at the initiative of at least five members.

Article 21

Regional Committees are permanent organizational structures that are responsible for the development of members in different YHO regions. Each Regional Committee is coordinated by the relevant Regional Coordinator, who is a Board member, proposed by the Regional Committee and confirmed by the General Assembly in an election.

Any member organization automatically belongs to a YHO region, based on their geographical

location. One member can only be a part of one region. Each full and associate member of YHO has one representative in the respective regional committee.

Each Regional Committee convenes at least once per year.

Article 22

The YHO General Assembly can establish other organizational structures (committees, commissions, networks, groups), through which the YHO members can work on common interests and coordinate work on separate specific fields.

The BOARD

Article 23

The Board is the executive body of YHO. The board is accountable to the YHO General Assembly for its work. It is convened and chaired by the YHO President or a Vice-president in the President's absence.

The Board consists of nine board members:

- President,
- Three to five Regional Coordinators,
- Three to five Free Board Members.

The amount of Regional Coordinators depends on the amount of YHO Regions, which is defined in separate Bylaws, that are reviewed and adopted by the General Assembly. The number of Free Board Members depends on the number of regional coordinators and is determined so that the total number of Management Board members is nine.

Article 24

The Board's tasks are to:

- Implement the YHO General Assembly's decisions.
- Carry out operational tasks assigned by the General Assembly,
- Accept and propose to the General Assembly new members who have completed the membership application,
- Ensure coordination among YHO bodies,
- Maintain the network's documentation,
- Draft proposals for amendments to the constitution and other acts of the network,

- Prepare programs and submit them for approval to the General Assembly, and coordinate the work of the permanent forms of operation of the federation.
- Prepare the programme and coordinate the work of the permanent organizational structures.
- Oversee out tasks from the YHO's yearly work programme and monitor its development.
- Convene General Assembly meetings and prepare materials for that purpose.
- Supervise proposals for the yearly report, financial plan and work plan for the following year by the Secretariat; to be sent to members at least 30 days prior to the General Assembly, to be adopted,
- Formulate proposals for recognitions and awards.
- Adopt general acts regulating employment relations within YHO.
- Supervise the creation of the YHO budget.
- Adopt a resolution on the tendering process and the method of selecting professional associates of YHO.
- Leads the procedures and pronounces the sanctions according to the disciplinary regulations.
- Decides on the address of the association.
- Appoint the Secretary General and propose/appoint the Legal Representative.
- Selects the members of the Executive Committee.
- Perform other tasks arising from the general acts of the network and tasks additionally assigned by the General Assembly.

Article 25

The Board may establish working bodies and committees as methods of operation if necessary for carrying out its tasks and ensuring the smooth implementation of YHO projects, which are developed based on the needs of the organization or society.

Article 26

The Board has physical meetings at least twice a year. The meeting is convened by the President or by one of the Vice-presidents in case of the President's absence. A Board meeting can take place using new technologies. The same rules apply as for a physical meeting.

The Board has reached quorum, when more than half of the members are present. Resolutions are adopted by a majority vote of the members present.

Article 27

The mandate of a Board member ends before the expiration of the term if they resign, if the General Assembly dismisses them due to violations of this statute, general acts of YHO, or decisions of YHO bodies, or for acting against the interests of YHO

Article 28

The sanctions the Board can state after the procedure according to the regulations are: warning, public warning or expulsion. The affected member can appeal against the Board decision no later than 15 days before the meeting of the General Assembly, which decides on the matter.

Article 29

The Board calls for candidates to all the bodies and organizational structures' positions at least 30 days before the current members finish their mandate.

The Board is responsible for keeping the membership records, but may appoint and authorize a nomination committee for this task.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 30

The Executive Committee is a collective body of YHO that consists of:

- The YHO President
- Up to three Vice-Presidents

The role of the Executive Committee is to implement the Boards decisions together with the Secretariat.

The Executive Committee reports to the Board and General Assembly.

SECRETARIAT

Article 31

The Secretariat of the network is the permanent organizational body of the YHO Board, led by the Secretary General, who is accountable to the Board. Its composition is determined by the Board based on current needs.

The Secretariat meets as needed and ensures the ongoing and timely execution of YHO tasks. The SecretaryGeneral is appointed by the Management Board.

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Article 32

The President has the following tasks:

- Leads the General Assembly, the Board, and the Executive Committee.
- Represents the organization publicly, both domestically and internationally.
- Chairs the YHO General Assembly.
- Convenes and chairs the Management Board.
- Carries out other tasks authorized by the General Assembly, bodies and the constitution.

The President is accountable to the YHO Assembly, which elects and dismisses her or him every three years.

The Vice Presidents are appointed by the Board at its first session for a three-year term and are accountable to it for their work. The Board also determines which of the Vice Presidents will act as a substitute for the President in their absence.

YHO has three to five Regional Coordinators, who are members of the Board. They are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period, to whom they are accountable and report on their work. Each Regional Coordinator is responsible for their respective YHO region, which are proposed by the Board and confirmed by the General Assembly according to the relevant Bylaws.

YHO has three to five Free Board Members, who are members of the Board and are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. Each Free Board Member is responsible for contributing to the general work of the Board. They report their work to the General Assembly.

The mandate of the President and Vice President terminates before the end of their term if they resign, if the General Assembly dismisses them due to violations of this statute, the general acts of YHO, or the decisions of YHO bodies, or if they act against the interests of YHO.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Article 33

The Secretary General is appointed by the Board, to which he or she also answers to and by which they can also be dismissed.

The tasks of the Secretary General, which may vary depending on the functioning of the organization, are primarily:

- Leads the professional office of YHO, comprising all employees of YHO.
- Coordinates and integrates the activities of YHO bodies, permanent working structures, and member organizations.
- Ensures the flow of information within the organization and promotes its activities to the public.

- Is responsible for preparing substantive and financial materials reviewed by YHO bodies.
- Performs other tasks and exercises authority as defined by the statute and decisions of YHO bodies.

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Article 34

The Legal Representative is appointed by the Board and confirmed by the General Assembly, which also has the authority to dismiss them from this position.

The tasks of the Legal Representative are:

- Legally represents the network independently and with unlimited capacity.
- Is responsible for financial and material related tasks.
- Is the one who decrees and executes all financial and material tasks of YHO.
- Conducts regular business operations,
- Represents YHO as an employer in relations with YHO employees, coordinates their work, and concludes other employment contracts,
- Decides on other matters based on the statute and general acts.

If the General Assembly doesn't confirm the appointed Legal Representative, the Board has 30 days to appoint a new Legal representative. Then the Board needs to convene a correspondence General Assembly in 14 days since the appointment, which votes upon confirmation of the Legal Representative.

The mandate of the Legal Representative terminates before the end of the term if she or he resigns, if the General Assembly dismisses her or him due to violations of this constitution, general acts of YHO, or decisions of YHO bodies, or if he or she acts contrary to the interests of YHO.

MONITORING COMMITTEE

Article 35

The YHO Monitoring Committee is a control body. The Monitoring Committee monitors the implementation of the program, the work of YHO bodies, and oversees the management of assets as well as YHO's financial and material operations. It reports on its activities to the General Assembly, to which it is also accountable.

The Monitoring Committee consists of 3 members elected by the General Assembly. It is coordinated by the Monitoring Committee President, elected by the Monitoring Committee members themselves. The Monitoring Committee President convenes the Monitoring Committee as needed, but at least once a year. Before the annual report is adopted, the

Monitoring Committee conducts an internal audit within YHO. This audit includes reviewing whether the annual report provides an accurate representation of the organization's assets and operations and examining whether the financial records and the annual report enable an assessment of whether the surplus of income over expenses is being used to fulfill YHO's purpose and goals or to perform non-profit activities specified in this statute. The Monitoring Committee reports its findings to the General Assembly prior to the adoption of the annual report.

The meetings have reached quorum if more than half of the members are present, and resolutions are approved, if more than half of the present members' vote for them. Monitoring Committee members cannot be simultaneously members of other bodies.

The term of a member of the Monitoring Committee ends before the expiration of their mandate if they resign or if the General Assembly dismisses them due to violations of this constitution, the general acts of YHO, or the decisions of YHO's bodies, or because they act contrary to the interests of YHO.

The work and decisions of the Monitoring Committee are documented in minutes, which are prepared by the President of the Monitoring Committee.

V. FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MEANS

Article 36

YHO's sources of income are:

- Membership fees.
- Funds from public tenders.
- Voluntary contributions, gifts, bequests, inheritances, and grants.
- Contributions from sponsors and donors.
- Revenues from using YHO's property and from its own activities.

YHO does not accept sponsorship or donation funds from the alcohol or tobacco industry or from other legal or natural persons associated with them.

Article 37

YHO must not distribute its assets to members. Any distribution of the association's assets among its members is void.

If YHO with its activities creates a surplus of income over expenses, the surplus will be used to fulfill the YHO's aims and goals or to carry out the non-profit activities specified in this constitution.

Article 38

YHO can own real estate property and other material goods, for which the Board maintains special records and documentation. The General Assembly decides on the acquisition, renting and disposal of the real estate property.

Article 39

YHO guarantees data of its financial and material business according to the Regulations on accountancy, accepted by the Board.

Article 40

YHO deals with its finances in accordance with the programme and yearly financial plans, accepted by the General Assembly.

Article 41

Financial and material documents are signed by the Legal Representative, and in his or her absence the President. Financial and material business has to be in accordance with valid regulations in this field.

The association provides information about its financial and material operations in the manner and format of double-entry bookkeeping, in accordance with the law and accounting standards for associations. YHO must conduct its financial and material operations in compliance with the accounting standard for associations.

VI. PUBLICITY

Article 42

YHO's activity is public.

Each full member has the right to review YHO's financial and material documentation and operations, subject to data protection restrictions. Requests to review the association's financial and material documentation are decided by the Board.

YHO ensures the transparency of its operations by informing its members about its activities, providing access to minutes of its governing bodies, and publishing annual reports.

Publicity is guaranteed by inviting media representatives to meetings, distributing material and other information on the network's work and holding press conferences. When decided by a specific governing body, the public may be excluded in certain cases.

YHO ensures the transparency of its work by regularly informing members about the decisions and resolutions of YHO bodies, as well as the outcomes of its activities.

The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring publicity of YHO.

VII. TERMINATION OF YHO ACTIVITY

Article 43

The YHO ceases to exist:

- If decided by the two-thirds of the General Assembly.
- By merging with or acquisition by other organizations' network.
- In case of bankruptcy.
- On the basis of a court decision.
- On the basis of a law itself.

In case of termination of YHO, the unused assets, after settling all liabilities, shall be transferred to another non-governmental organization with the same or similar purpose or to a non-profit legal entity under public law.

VIII. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 44

This constitution enters into force on the day it is adopted by the General Assembly and becomes applicable once approved by the competent administrative authority.

On the date of adoption of this constitution, the constitution of the association dated June 30, 2011, ceases to be valid.

Article 45

All other YHO legal activities and its implementation need to be consistent with this constitution within six months of its acceptance.

In Ljubljana, April, 2025

President
Sanja Šišović