

# Statutes

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF PARENTS OF DEAFBLIND AND MULTISENSORY IMPAIRED ON A SENSORIAL BASIS ADOPTED BY THE FOUNDING GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELD IN CITY, COUNTRY AND DATE.**

### **Article 1: Name, Legal Form, Registered Address and Definition.**

- 1.1** - The organization is called the World Confederation of Parents of Deafblind and Multisensory Impaired on a Sensorial Basis (WCPDB).
- 1.2** - It is a non-governmental, charitable and non-profit making worldwide organization.
- 1.3** - The association has the legal registered address at 2-D, Leiva Street, Lower Floor, 08014 Barcelona; Catalonia - Spain.
- 1.4** - Deafblindness is a unique disability, caused by a combination of severe auditive and visual impairments.
- 1.5** - WCPDB is the legitimate voice of the Parents of deafblind population in the world and the deafblind not self-represented.

### **Article 2: Relationships.**

- 2.1** - WCPDB establishes and maintains close relationships with the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), the World Blind Union (WBU), Deafblind International (Dbi) and The International Disability Alliance (IDA), all relevant United Nations organisations and institutions and with regional offices of international organisations whose aims are in accordance with those of WCPDB and its members.

### **Article 3: Aims and Functions.**

- 3.1** - The aim of WCPDB is to improve the quality of life of deafblind people world wide, with the objective of achieving their equal rights and equal opportunities in all areas of society to be a world wide forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the area of deafblindness and to increase international solidarity among deafblind people's organisations.

### **3.2 - Functions of WCPDB:**

- a. to promote social inclusion and equal participation in all areas of society.
- b. to ensure accessibility to all areas of society.
- c. to promote improvements in the field of education, rehabilitation and employment of deafblind people.
- d. to combat discrimination of deafblind people.
- e. to promote guide interpreters and other services for all deafblind people.
- f. to raise awareness of deafblindness as a unique disability.
- g. to promote and support the establishment of national deafblind organizations.
- h. to support national deafblind organizations.
- i. to publish newsletters and other material.
- j. to implement necessary measures to achieve the aims of WCPDB.

### **Article 4: Membership.**

#### **4.1 - WCPDB has two (2) forms of membership:**

- a. National Members.
- b. Special Members.

Applications for membership must be made to the Executive Council. In case of rejection, the applicant can request a decision by General Assembly.

#### **4.2 - National members represent the deafblind population of their country.**

Each country can only have one national member. Each National member elects one National representative, who must be a deafblind person.

#### **4.3 - National members have the right to participate in all WCPDB activities. On General Assembly, National representatives have the right to speak and the right to vote.**

#### **4.4 - Special Membership can be divided into four (4) categories of membership: Individual**

membership, Honorary membership, Associate membership and Sponsoring membership. Special members have the right to participate in all WCPDB activities unless they are Elected officers; those have no right to vote in General Assembly.

**4.5** - Individual Members are deafblind people who are not representing the deafblind population of the country they live in. Individual members have the right to speak in general assembly.

**4.6** - Honorary Members are chosen by Executive Council in recognition of their contribution and support to the interests of deafblind people and their organisations.

**4.7** - Associate Membership of WCPDB is open to individuals, organisations and institutions who are in agreement with the aim of WCPDB.

**4.8** - Sponsoring Membership is open to all individuals, organisations and institutions who want to support WCPDB financially.

#### **Article 5: General Assembly.**

**5.1** - The governance of WCPDB consists of the following bodies:

1. The General Assembly.
2. The Executive Council.

**5.2** - The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of WCPDB.

**5.3** - Meetings of General Assembly are open and consist of deafblind representatives representing the National Members. Each representative has one vote. No proxy voting is allowed. Providing that notification for Meetings of General Assembly is in accordance with this Constitution; General Assembly is quorate regardless of the number of representatives present.

**5.4** - The General Assembly meets at least every four years.

**5.5** - Meetings of General Assembly are announced in writing by the General Secretary at least eighteen (18) months before the date of the meeting. Applications and motions to be considered by General Assembly must be received by Executive Council at least twelve (12) months before the date of General Assembly. The agenda and all relevant documents related to General Assembly are circulated to all members by the Secretary General at least four (4) months before the date of the meeting. The date of the postmark is taken as the date of dispatch.

**5.6** - The General Assembly has in particular the following responsibilities:

- a. to determine policy.
- b. to discuss all recommendations presented by Executive Council and make the necessary decisions.
- c. to receive reports from the President, the Secretary General, the Executive Council and all the committees and give or withhold approval.
- d. to set budget parameters strategically.
- e. to receive the Treasurer's report and give or withhold approval.
- f. to determine the membership fee.
- g. to elect the President, Vice president, Secretary General and Treasurer.
- h. to elect the members of Executive Council.
- i. to consider all proposals presented to it.
- j. to elect two members of General Assembly to act as auditors who examine and report on the management of WCPDB finances.
- k. to consider resolutions to amend the Constitution.
- l. to make decisions concerning the dissolution of WCPDB.

**5.7** - Voting is through consensus or through the raising of hands, unless a representative requests a secret ballot. In this case a secret ballot is held.

**5.8** - All voting, with the exception of amendments to the Constitution and the dissolution of WCPDB requires a simple majority of the votes cast.

**5.9** - Elections are carried out by secret ballot.

**Article 6: Executive Council.**

**6.1** - Executive Council is elected by General Assembly.

**6.2** - Executive Council consists of the Elected Officers:

- President.
- Vice president.
- Secretary General.
- Treasurer.

and six (6) members representing the following six regions:

- a. Africa.
- b. Asia.
- c. Europe.
- d. Latin America.
- e. North America.
- f. The Pacific.

**6.3** - The editor of WCPDB's newsletter is appointed by Executive Council as co-opted member and has observer status.

**6.4** - The term of office of Executive Council begins at the end of General Assembly and ends at the end of the next General Assembly when a new Executive Council is elected. If an elected member retires between elections, Executive Council may appoint a replacement, representing the same region, until the next election. If one of the Elected Officers, except

the President, retires, Executive Council may appoint a replacement until the next election.

**6.5** - The function of Executive Council is to undertake the business of WCPDB.

**6.6** - Executive Council meets at least once a year.

**6.7** - Meetings of Executive Council are announced in writing by the Secretary General at least six (6) months before the date of the meeting.

The agenda and all relevant documents are circulated to all members of Executive Council at least two (2) months before the date of the meeting.

The date of the postmark is taken as the date of dispatch.

**6.8** - Executive Council has a quorum when at least four (4) elected members and two (2) elected officers are present.

**6.9** - When it comes to voting in Executive Council and votes turn out to be equal, the President has the final vote.

#### **Article 7: Responsibilities of Elected Officers.**

**7.1** Elected officers are: the President, the Vice president, the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

Elected Officers carry out their tasks under the supervision of Executive Council.

**7.2** The President is responsible for:

- a. The presidency of the meetings of General Assembly and Executive Council.
- b. The representation of WCPDB.

**7.3** The Vice President serves in case of absence of the President or if the President retires

before the end of the president's term of office.

**7.4** The Secretary General is responsible for:

- a. The preparation and the duration of meetings of General Assembly and Executive Council.
- b. A register of the membership and all relevant relationships.
- c. The custody of all relevant documents.
- d. The daily correspondence of WCPDB, not related to the other Elected Officers.
- e. Annual reports of WCPDB.

**7.5** The treasurer is responsible for:

- a. The financial matters of WCPDB.
- b. The preparation and presentation of annual accounts of WCPDB.
- c. Preparation of annual budgets.

**Article 8: Dissolution.**

**8.1** Dissolution of WCPDB happens if no meetings of General Assembly have taken place during a period of nine (9) consecutive years or after no meetings of Executive Council have taken place during a period of five (5) consecutive years.

**8.2** A resolution containing the dissolution of WCPDB must be circulated to all members at least twelve (12) months before the General Assembly at which it is to be discussed. For such a resolution to be carried a two third majority of all votes cast is required.

**Article 9: Amendments and Approval.**

**9.1** Resolutions to amend the constitution must be received by the executive council at least twelve (12) months before the date of the meeting of General Assembly at which they are to be discussed and must be circulated to all members at least eight (8) months before. For such a resolution to be carried a two third majority of all votes cast is required.

**9.2** Other rules not mentioned in this constitution are described in the bylaws of WCPDB.

**9.3** Bylaws of WCPDB are prepared by Executive Council and approved by General Assembly. To approve bylaws only a simple majority of all votes cast in General Assembly is required.

**9.4** Approval of this constitution requires two third of all votes cast of all deafblind participants meeting in the Founding General Assembly of WCPDB.

**9.5** The constitution comes into power immediately after approval by the Founding General Assembly.