



Constitution incorporating changes approved at the 2022 ILGA World World Conference  
in Long Beach, USA

## CONSTITUTION OF ILGA WORLD

### C1 PREAMBLE

C1.1 Affirming the fundamental pride that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people (LGBTI) have in their sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics;

C1.2 Recognising that there is no single issued struggle to achieve human rights and socio-economic equality for all, ILGA world strives to work through an intersectional feminist lens.

C1.3 Conscious that social and legal discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics, is pervasive and that effective work against oppression calls for international solidarity;

C1.4 Seeking in ILGA World an international organisation within which lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people from different perspectives can work together;

C1.5 Concerned with the vulnerability of youth in a world that continues to practice so many forms of discrimination, the need for their protection from abuse and the goal of ensuring that young people experience both freedom and support as they develop their own sexualities and identities;

C1.6 Mindful of the impact of discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, race, age, disability, economic status, national origin and ethnicity on lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans people and intersex people, and the way in which such discrimination can end in violence and violation of human rights.

C1.7 Building on the work of previous generations who have struggled for equality and liberation;

C1.8 We approve this document as the Constitution of ILGA World.

### C2 CONSTITUTION

C2.1 ILGA World is the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. ILGA World represents people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics. ILGA World is an international nonprofit organisation in conformity with art. 60 in accordance with Swiss Civil Code and with this Constitution and covers the activities of ILGA. The association is incorporated for an unspecified period.

C2.2 The registered office is in Geneva. ILGA World is registered with the *registre du commerce* of Geneva. The Executive Board of ILGA World, can decide by the majority of its members, to move the registered office elsewhere, even abroad, if special circumstances require so, especially if this has the effect to safeguard its freedom of action. Such a decision must nevertheless be ratified within 180 days by the General Assembly by a simple majority of votes cast for and against.

C2.3 The working languages of ILGA World are English and Spanish. ILGA World is inclusive of all people and will strive to provide communication in other languages where possible.

### **C3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

C3.1 The Aims and Objectives of ILGA World are:

C3.1.1 To work for the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people and for liberation from all forms of discrimination and violence;

C3.1.2 To work for equality of all people who live and face discrimination and violence because of their perceived or actual sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

C3.1.3 To promote the universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence and also including the realisation of the specific provisions of the following international human rights instruments:

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination;
- The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women;
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- The International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- The International Convention on Enforced Disappearance

C3.2 To work towards these goals, ILGA World shall:

- Create a platform for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans people and intersex people internationally, in their quest for recognition, equality and liberation, in particular through the world and regional conferences;
- Work towards equal representation in all regions for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans people and intersex people in our quest for recognition, equality and liberation;
- Give support for ILGA World members in coordination with its regions;
- Collect information, conduct research, publish material and organise seminars, training, briefings and specialised conferences;
- Offer facilities for co-ordination of activities and actions.

### **C4 MEMBERSHIP**

C4.1 All members have to support the aims of ILGA World.

C4.2 Membership in ILGA World is divided into two categories: Full members and Associate members.

Full members are:

- non-profit organisations representing lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans people or intersex people, their culture or providing exclusive service to or support for them;
- branches of the above mentioned organisations;
- non-profit groups representing lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans people or intersex people within other organisations such as trade unions and political parties.

Associated members are: other organisations of public law, such as cities, regions, political parties or trade unions, etc., or of private law.

*C4.3 Application:*

An applicant for any category of membership of ILGA World must submit an application to ILGA World and affirm agreement with the aims and objectives of ILGA World.

An organisation applying for full or associate membership must provide a description of itself, its aims, the composition of its membership, target group and structure.

*C4.4 Admission:*

Applications for full or associate members which are in conformity with the aims and objectives in this constitution shall be accepted by the Executive Board, subject to final decision by the General Assembly. The Executive Board can delegate the acceptance of new members in a region to a regional structure set up in accordance with C5.2.

*C4.5 Suspension and expulsion:*

A member may be suspended from membership by the Executive Board for failure to comply with this constitution by at least a 50% plus 1 majority of its members voting for the suspension. The suspension, unless revoked by the Executive Board, shall remain in force until the next General Assembly. A member may be expelled from membership by motion at a General Assembly for failure to comply with this constitution. Members facing the possibility of expulsion have the right to present their defence.

C4.6 If a member does not pay the annual membership fee within 3 months after being given notice that the fee is due, the member will not be able to exercise the rights of a member as set out in this constitution until such time as last 2 years fees have been paid

C 4.7 Members shall at all times have the same membership status in a region as in ILGA World itself.

## **C5 REGIONAL STRUCTURES**

C5.1 The regions of ILGA World are Africa, Oceania (Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia and Pacific

Islands), Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and North America (US, Canada and Caribbean).

C5.2 Within each region members may form a regional organisation. All members of ILGA World in a region are members of the same category in the regional organisation.

C5.3 The highest authority for each regional organisation is the regional conference. In accordance with the provisions in C8.3 the regional caucus at the General Assembly will take on the duties of the regional conference in case such a conference has not taken place between two General Assembly.

C5.4 The aims of regional organisations shall at all times be consistent with the aims expressed in this constitution, and their work shall reflect the diversity of members in the region.

C5.5 Regional organisations may make decisions on regional structures and regional matters, and regional conferences have the power to determine the policy of the regional organisation, according to their rules, subject to the provisions of this constitution.

C5.6 Where no such rules have been determined, then the arrangements for regional conferences must follow ILGA World's Standing Orders as closely as possible in order to be recognised as official events of ILGA World.

C5.7 Where no such rules have been determined, and in case a Regional Conference has not decided the place and time of the next conference, then the Office of ILGA World in Geneva or regional office if there is one, shall communicate to all full members in the region that they can propose to organise the next regional conference. Members that wish to do so need to present and defend their proposal. The proposals are public. The decision will be made by the regional board if there is one. If there isn't one, a committee composed of the Secretaries-General, the region's representatives on the Executive Board and 5 full members from the region will consider the various proposals and decide which group will organise the next conference on the grounds of the criteria in the invitation for proposals.

C5.8 A regional organisation shall mention in its own constitution that it is a regional organisation of ILGA World. A regional organisation may list, in its official name, the specific groups covered by ILGA World, and for this purpose use wording and formulations appropriate to the cultural and linguistic context of that region. However, a regional organisation may not alter the name "ILGA World" in the official name of the regional organisation.

## **C6 STEERING COMMITTEES**

### **C6.1 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

C6.1.1 The General Assembly shall elect a person coming from a member organisation and identifying as a woman to chair the Women's Committee and also be a member of the World Board.

C6.1.2 Each regional board shall appoint a person identifying as a woman to sit on the Women's Committee.

C6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Women's Committee to coordinate the work of the Committee which is to:

- a) Represent women's issues in the ILGA World Executive Board and be a spokesperson for women's issues for the Executive Board.
- b) Represent and advance women's inclusiveness at the highest decision governance decision making level, the Executive Board.
- c) Apply an intersectional lens to ensuring that the needs and advancement of women are protected in ILGA's policies and processes.
- d) Use the executive authority at Board level to strengthen, advise and support the ILGA World Programme in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- e) Guide, support and input into the preparation and effective delivery of a women's pre-conference and caucus at the ILGA World conference in collaboration with the Executive Director
- f) To build partnerships with intersectional feminist movements and external allies. To represent ILGA World at relevant decision-making events, processes and conferences
- g) In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Co-Secretaries General, the BITY Chairs and with the steering committees convene an annual programme review with the ILGA world programme to monitor and ensure effective membership consultation on programmatic impact.

## **C6.2 TRANS COMMITTEE**

C6.2.1 The General Assembly shall elect a person coming from a member organisation and identifying as trans to chair the Trans Committee and also be a member of the World Board.

C6.2.2 Each regional board shall appoint a person identifying as trans to sit on the Trans Committee

C6.2.3 It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Trans Committee to coordinate the work of the Committee which is to:

- a) Represent trans issues in the ILGA World Executive Board and be a spokesperson for trans issues for the Executive Board.
- b) Represent and advance trans persons' inclusiveness at the highest decision governance decision making level, the Executive Board.
- c) Apply an intersectional lens to ensuring that the needs and advancement of trans persons are protected in ILGA's policies and processes.
- d) Use the executive authority at Board level to strengthen, advise and support the ILGA World Programme in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- e) Guide, support and input into the preparation and effective delivery of a trans pre-conference and caucus at the ILGA World conference in collaboration with the Executive Director
- f) To build partnerships with trans movements and external allies. To represent ILGA World at relevant decision-making events, processes and conferences

- g) In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Co-Secretaries General, the BIWY Chairs and with the steering committees convene an annual programme review with the ILGA world programme to monitor and ensure effective membership consultation on programmatic impact.

### **C6.3 INTERSEX COMMITTEE**

C6.3.1 The General Assembly shall elect an intersex person coming from a member organisation to chair the Intersex Committee and also be a member of the World Board.

#### **C6.3.2 Each regional board shall appoint an intersex person to sit on the Intersex Committee**

C6.3.3 It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Intersex Committee to coordinate the work of the Committee which is to:

- a) Represent intersex issues in the ILGA World Executive Board and be a spokesperson for intersex issues for the Executive Board.
- b) Represent and advance intersex persons' inclusiveness at the highest decision governance decision making level, the Executive Board.
- c) Apply an intersectional lens to ensuring that the needs and advancement of intersex persons are protected in ILGA's policies and processes.
- d) Use the executive authority at Board level to strengthen, advise and support the ILGA World Programme in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- e) Guide, support and input into the preparation and effective delivery of an intersex pre-conference and caucus at the ILGA World conference in collaboration with the Executive Director
- f) To build partnerships with intersex movements and external allies. To represent ILGA World at relevant decision-making events, processes and conferences
- g) In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Co-Secretaries General, the BTWY Chairs and with the steering committees convene an annual programme review with the ILGA world programme to monitor and ensure effective membership consultation on programmatic impact.

### **C6.4 BISEXUAL COMMITTEE**

C6.4.1 The General Assembly will elect a person coming from a member organisation who identifies as bisexual to chair the Bisexual Committee and also be a member of the World Board.

C6.4.2 Each regional board shall appoint a person identifying as bisexual to sit on the Bisexual Committee

C6.4.3 It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Bisexual Committee to coordinate the work of the Committee which is to:

- a) Represent bisexual issues in the ILGA World Executive Board and be a spokesperson for bisexual issues for the Executive Board.
- b) Represent and advance bisexual persons' inclusiveness at the highest decision governance decision making level, the Executive Board.
- c) Apply an intersectional lens to ensuring that the needs and advancement of bisexual persons are protected in ILGA's policies and processes.
- d) Use the executive authority at Board level to strengthen, advise and support the ILGA World Programme in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- e) Guide, support and input into the preparation and effective delivery of a bisexual pre-conference and caucus at the ILGA World conference in collaboration with the Executive Director
- f) To build partnerships with bisexual movements and external allies. To represent ILGA World at relevant decision-making events, processes and conferences
- g) In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Co-Secretaries General, the ITWY Chairs and with the steering committees convene an annual programme review with the ILGA world programme to monitor and ensure effective membership consultation on programmatic impact.

## **C6.5 YOUTH COMMITTEE**

C6.5.1 The General Assembly shall elect an LGBTIQ person below the age of thirty (30) and coming from a member organisation to chair the Youth Committee and also be a member of the World Board.

C6.5.2 Each regional board shall appoint an LGBTIQ person who is below the age of 30 to sit on the Youth Committee.

C6.5.3 It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Youth Committee to coordinate the work of the Committee which is to:

- h) Represent youth issues in the ILGA World Executive Board and be a spokesperson for bisexual issues for the Executive Board.
- i) Represent and advance young persons' inclusiveness at the highest decision governance decision making level, the Executive Board.
- j) Apply an intersectional lens to ensuring that the needs and advancement of young persons are protected in ILGA's policies and processes.
- k) Use the executive authority at Board level to strengthen, advise and support the ILGA World Programme in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- l) Guide, support and input into the preparation and effective delivery of a youth pre-conference and caucus at the ILGA World conference in collaboration with the Executive Director
- m) To build partnerships with youth movements and external allies. To represent ILGA World at relevant decision-making events, processes and conferences
- n) In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Co-Secretaries General, the BITW Chairs and

with the steering committees convene an annual programme review with the ILGA world programme to monitor and ensure effective membership consultation on programmatic impact.

## **C7 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

C7.1 The highest authority of ILGA World is the General Assembly usually held at the ILGA World Conference.

C7.2 The time and place of the World conference shall normally be determined by a prior World Conference. However, if such a decision is not taken or if it subsequently becomes unviable for any reason, the Executive Board shall take steps to ensure that a World Conference and General Assembly are called, including determining the World Conference format venue and host organisation.

C7.3 The procedures for the General Assembly shall be those set out in this Constitution and the Standing Orders.

C7.4 Full members, the Executive Board, the Steering Committees and Regional Executive Boards can submit proposals and amendments to proposals in accordance with the provisions in the Standing Orders. They may also nominate candidates for Secretaries General and chairs of the Steering Committees. Candidates can be nominated by other member organisation(s) than they are members of.

C7.5 In advance of the General Assembly the Executive Board shall send to all members, in accordance with the provisions in the Standing Orders a preliminary agenda with proposals and nominations, and the audited accounts for the previous financial year or years and invite full members to submit amendments to proposals. The Board shall also send to all members, in accordance with the provisions in the Standing Orders, the final agenda with the reports from the Board and each of the Steering Committees and the financial report for the current year.

C7.6 The agenda of the General Assembly shall include:

- a) Approval of the report from the Executive Board
- b) Approval of the report from the Women's Committee
- c) Approval of the report from the Trans Committee
- d) Approval of the report from the Bisexual Committee
- e) Approval of the report from the Intersex Committee
- f) Approval of the report from the Youth Committee
- g) Approval of the audited accounts
- h) Approval of the financial report for the current year
- i) Approval of the budget
- j) Appointment of an auditor
- k) Proposals and amendments from full members, the Executive Board, the Steering Committees and Regional Executive Boards

- l) Any change in the membership fee
- m) Election of the Secretaries General
- n) Election of the Chairs of the Steering Committees.

C7.7 The General Assembly is chaired by a Chairing Pool, which shall have the functions set out in the Standing Orders

C7.8 Only full members are entitled to vote at a General Assembly. Each full member shall have two votes and may nominate a proxy in accordance with the provisions in the Standing Orders.

C7.9 Decisions of a General Assembly are taken only by the conference in plenary session. They shall be recorded in a special register in accordance with the Standing Orders.

A plenary session can decide on questions of membership, resolutions, constitutional amendments, policy statements, budgetary decisions, elections and other business, in accordance with the procedures in the Standing Orders.

C7.10 Wherever possible, decisions are taken by consensus. In the event of a vote, decisions shall be taken on the basis of a simple majority of the votes cast for and against, with the exception of amendments to this Constitution, as stated in C11.2.

C7.11 An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board in accordance with the Standing Orders if:

- A General Assembly decides that an Extraordinary General Assembly should be held, or
- 20% of the full members including members from at least twelve countries and two regions request such a conference in order to discuss and take decision on particular issues, or
- The Board considers that it is in the interests of ILGA World for such a Extraordinary General Assembly to be held and make decisions on particular issues.

C7.12 The notice for such a Extraordinary General Assembly shall specify the issues that are to be discussed, and the agenda for the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be restricted to these issues. At Extraordinary General Assemblies decisions can be taken only if at least 15% of the full members including members from at least fifteen countries and three regions are represented at the General Assembly by delegates or by proxy. In all other respects, the provisions of this Constitution and the Standing Orders shall apply.

## **C8 THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

C8.1 The Executive Board shall act on behalf of ILGA World between General Assemblies, within the framework and goals of this Constitution and the resolutions of the General Assembly. The Executive Board appoints among its Members a Treasurer.

C8.2 The Executive Board shall include two representatives, at least one of whom identifies as a

woman, from each region, the two Secretaries-General, and the Chairs of the Steering Committees. All full members of the board have to be from full member organisations. The Executive Director is an ex-officio member of the Executive Board. The ED does not have voting rights.

C8.3 Regional representatives shall be elected by the appropriate regional structures, according to their procedures. If this is not possible, a regional caucus at a General Assembly shall elect representatives until the region elects representatives according to their procedures or until the next General Assembly.

C8.4 In case a position among the regional representatives becomes vacant, a replacement may be elected by the region according to their procedures. In case a position among the BITWY Committee Chairs becomes vacant, the respective Committee shall appoint a new Committee Chair from among their ranks. In case one of the Co-Secretary General positions becomes vacant, the ILGA World board may appoint a new Co-Secretary General from among their ranks. If a region or BITWY Committee does not or cannot fill a vacancy, the Executive Board may appoint an interim member for the function until the region or BITWY committee elects a new member.

C8.5 The General Assembly shall elect two Secretaries General, at least one of whom identifies as a woman, to join the Executive Board:

- a) The Secretaries General represent the organisation
- b) The Secretaries General can delegate the representational functions to other board members
- c) The Secretaries General act as joint line manager to the Executive Director. They can decide to designate one of them as the lead person on this matter.

C8.6 The Executive Board has the following functions:

- a) to represent ILGA World internationally and implement ILGA World policies,
- b) to ensure the organisation of General Assemblies and World Conferences
- c) to appoint the Executive Director
- d) to oversee the management of the Executive Director, who manages the administrative office and ILGA World staff.
- e) to report regularly on their activities to the membership and to each General Assembly,
- f) to select signing officers for the organisation.
- g) to undertake fundraising for the organisation.
- h) The board has the mandate to establish committees
- i) To choose among the members a treasurer who chairs the finance committee and holds joint responsibility with the executive director for the finances of the organisation to set up working parties to assist them in specific areas and to mandate such working parties to act on its behalf where appropriate and within the aims and objectives of ILGA World;
- j) to work closely together with the Steering Committees;
- k) to promote equality of women, trans, bisexual and intersex persons within and outside ILGA World, bearing in mind the concerns of young as well as elder LGBTI people

to act on behalf of the organisation where necessary and undertake such other functions for every purpose falling within the aims and objectives of ILGA World.

C8.7 The Executive Board shall set up its own order of business and determine its own timetable for meetings in order to carry out its functions.

C8.8 Meetings of the Executive Board will be open to observers representing full members of ILGA World, with the exception of discussions involving confidential personal information regarding individual board members or employees.

C8.9 Executive Board will have a meeting shortly after the General Assembly and at least twice a year after that.

C8.10 The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board shall be at least 50% of the regions and at least three BITWY committee chairs represented, and one Secretary-General present. Meetings can also be conducted by telephone or electronically.

C8.11 The term of office of the Secretaries-General and the Chairs of the Steering Committees shall be from the end of the General Assembly at which they are elected until the end of the next General Assembly. They may run for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The term of office of the regional members shall be specified by the appropriate regional structures.

C8.12 Decisions of the Executive Board are recorded in a special register and signed by two Board members.

C8.13 ILGA World can only be legally committed by the two Secretaries General (or in the absence of one of the Secretaries General one other board member) and the Executive Director jointly, acting with the authorisation of the board.

C8.14 Board members act voluntarily and can only claim compensation for their actual costs and their travel expenses incurred in relation with exercising their function. For activities exceeding the usual scope of their function, each Board Member can receive appropriate compensation. Paid employees of ILGA World can only sit in on the Board meetings in an advisory capacity (with no deliberative voting rights).

C8.15 The Executive Board members shall receive an appropriate annual honorarium as a recognition of their commitment, work and time to ILGA World.

## **C9 FINANCES**

C9.1 The financial year of ILGA World is the calendar year, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board or a General Assembly.

C9.2 ILGA World is a non-profit, international, non-governmental organisation according to Swiss Law. It may receive income from membership contributions, gifts, grants or other legally acceptable

sources according to Swiss Law.

C9.3 The Executive Board is responsible for ensuring that accurate accounts of ILGA World are kept according to Swiss Law. The Executive Board determines detailed financial regulations in relation to the control of financial resources and the keeping of accurate financial records, including provisions for the audit of ILGA World accounts.

C9.4 The General Assembly shall approve a suitably qualified auditor who shall be independent of the Executive Board.

## **C10 USE OF THE ILGA WORLD NAME**

C10.1 The names 'International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association' and 'ILGA World' as well as the logo of ILGA World can only be used with the authorisation of the Executive Board or the General Assembly.

## **C11 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

C11.1 An amendment to the Constitution can only be considered at a General Assembly if the proposal has been submitted and circulated according to the rules in C7. The General Assembly can consider the amendment proposed and any alterations to the amendment, which are not outside the scope of the proposed amendment.

C11.2 Adoption of changes to the constitution requires a majority of 75% of the votes cast for and against.

## **C12 VARIOUS PROVISIONS**

C12.1 Dissolution of ILGA World can be decided by a General Assembly under the rules for the amendment of the Constitution. Notice, in this case, shall be mailed to members at least three months in advance of the General Assembly. In the case of the dissolution of ILGA World, the General Assembly shall appoint one or several liquidators, shall define their powers and indicate how to affect distribution of the net assets. The assets of the organisation shall go to a non- for-profit organisation(s) pursuing public interest and aims similar to those of ILGA World and benefiting from tax exemption. In no case can the assets be returned to the individual founders or members of the Association, or to be used by them to receive profit in any possible way. The organisations to be decided by the General Assembly or, in default of such decision, by the Executive Board.