CONSTITUTION

OF THE

WORLD ALLIANCE OF
YOUNG MEN’S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

2010

World Alliance of Young Men’s Christian Associations
12 Clos Belmont, CH-1208 Geneva, Switzerland
ARTICLE I
NAME

This Confederation of the national or area bodies representing the Young Men's Christian Associations of their respective nations or areas shall be called The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (hereinafter referred to as "the World Alliance").

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE AND OBJECTS

1. The continuing basis of the work and witness of the World Alliance is that adopted in Paris in 1855 by the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations who were then led by God to bring it into being, viz.,

"The Young Men's Christian Associations seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their faith and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom amongst young men."

"Any differences of opinion on other subjects, however important in themselves, shall not interfere with the harmonious relations of the Constituent Members and Associates of the World Alliance."

2. The enduring objects of the World Alliance shall be:

a) to strengthen the work of the Young Men's Christian Associations in all lands in accordance with the Paris Basis;

b) to make real its unity in Christ in the midst of human diversity;

c) to help its Members and Associates to develop and adapt their respective programmes to the needs arising out of the conditions in which young people live and work;

d) to promote the extension of Young Men's Christian Associations to new fields;

e) to assist the promotion of Christian principles in social and international conduct and relations;

f) to undertake and sponsor international, humanitarian welfare and relief work on a Christian basis, especially among young people and in times of emergency, without regard to religious, social, political, national or racial differences;

g) to encourage Members of the Young Men's Christian Associations to participate loyally in the life of their respective churches, to bring these churches closer together, and to participate in efforts to realise the Church Universal;

h) to develop sympathy, understanding, mutual respect and cooperation, nationally and internationally, among all desiring to enter into the fellowship and activities of the Young Men's Christian Associations.
ARTICLE III
DEFINITIONS

1. “World Alliance” is the confederation of the Members representing Young Men’s Christian Associations (YMCAs) around the world.

2. “World Council” is the regular meeting of Members of the World Alliance being the executive medium through which the World Alliance shall act and for such purpose shall have all the powers in the World Alliance.

3. “Executive Committee” is the Executive Committee of the World Alliance, as described in Article VII, Section 1, of this Constitution.

4. “Officers of the World Alliance” are the President, Deputy President and Treasurer.

5. “Secretary General” is the senior staff person employed by the World Alliance.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

1. a) The Members of the World Alliance shall be:

   i) Those national or area Alliances or Federations or Councils or Associations of Young Men's Christian Associations which, at the date of the adoption of this Constitution, are already affiliated to and Members of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and register with the Secretary General duly authenticated copies of their respective resolutions of acceptance of this Constitution together with copies of their respective constitutions, should such constitutions not already have been registered with the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.

   ii) Such other national or area Alliances or Federations or Councils or Associations of Young Men's Christian Associations as may from time to time be elected to Membership by the World Council.

b) An Applicant for Membership (hereinafter in Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 1 of this Article called "the Organisation") shall apply in writing to the World Council with:

   i) a duly authenticated copy of its resolution of acceptance of this Constitution, containing an undertaking to abide by its Articles and Regulations;

   ii) a copy of the constitution of the Organisation;

   iii) evidence, satisfactory to the World Council,
(1) that the work and witness of the Organisation are in accord with the Paris Basis, and other statements or principles, as adopted by the World Council from time to time;

(2) that those in charge of the Organisation are qualified to give the Christian leadership which will enable it to fulfil its mission;

(3) of the standing of the Organisation in the Christian community in its area;

(4) of the autonomy, permanence and stability of the Organisation;

iv) such other information and particulars as the World Council may from time to time deem necessary.

c) Only one Organisation from any one country may in general be accepted as a Member. An application for Membership by any Organisation from a country already represented by a Member shall only be considered by the World Council with the previous consent of that Member. The same rules shall apply to the case of an application for Membership by an area Alliance, Federation, Council or Association of Young Men's Christian Associations where such an Organisation already exists in respect of the same area and is a Member of the World Alliance.

2.

a) The World Council shall have the power to elect Associates of the World Alliance, to enable those YMCAs in the process of formation to enter into the fellowship of the World Alliance.

b) An applicant for Associateship shall apply in writing to the World Council, shall accept this Constitution and shall provide the World Council with:

i) a duly authenticated copy of its resolution of acceptance of this Constitution, containing an undertaking to abide by its Articles and Regulations;

ii) a copy of its constitution or such other agreements or relative documents as are available;

iii) evidence that such applicant has been in existence for two years and that its work is conducted in harmony with the spirit, aims and purposes of the Young Men's Christian Associations;

iv) such other information and particulars as the World Council may deem necessary.

c) An application for Associateship by an organisation in a country or area already represented by a Member shall only be considered by the World Council with the previous consent of that Member.

d) Associates shall have no right to vote.
a) Members and Associates shall with diligence provide the World Council with:

i) copies of all amendments made to their constitutions;
ii) copies of their annual reports and financial statements;

b) Members and Associates shall give due consideration to such recommendations as are duly passed at meetings of the World Council and committees of the World Alliance and the World Council and at World and Area Conferences.

c) Levies/Subscriptions/Fair Share

Every Member or Associate shall pay to the World Alliance Office such subscriptions or levies or payments as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee in consultation with Members. A full consultative procedure shall be undertaken with Members in setting such subscription, payment or levies.

4. Use of the name “Young Men’s Christian Association”

It is a term and condition of Membership of the World Alliance that each Member (or other entity specifically authorised by the World Alliance) uses, recognises and acknowledges that it is permitted to use the words “Young Men’s Christian Association” as part of its name only for as long as it remains a Member (or authorised entity) and that the said words are used by the authority and licence of the World Alliance. If the Membership of any Member is revoked or if a Member (or authorised entity) for any other reason whatsoever ceases to be recognised by the World Alliance, then that Member (or authorised entity) shall forthwith upon the cessation of its Membership or permitted use change its name to a name not containing the words “Young Men’s Christian Association” or any words or initials or abbreviations which would be likely to associate it in any way with the Young Men’s Christian Association movement generally and shall cease to use trademarks, symbols, designs or logos which would be likely to be associated with the World Alliance or the Young Men’s Christian Association movements generally.

5. In the event of an adverse vote by the World Council on an application for Membership or Associateship, the World Council shall be under no obligation to state a reason for any such decision.

6. Suspension and Revocation of Membership

The Membership or the Membership rights, such as:

- entitlement to vote at any meeting of the World Council
- eligibility of a nominee from that Member to the Executive Committee at the time of the election
- entitlement to nominate candidates for election to the Executive Committee
- subsidised attendance at events, including the World Council
- eligibility for IMSS grants

of any Member may at any time be suspended or revoked by the Executive Committee if in the opinion of the Executive Committee such Member:

a) is not acting in harmony with this Constitution; or
b) is acting or is being conducted by its governing body in a manner which may bring itself, or the Young Men’s Christian Association Movement generally into disrepute; or

c) fails to meet the requirements of the World Council as set down and notified to Members from time to time; or

d) is more than one year overdue with its subscription, levy or similar payment or any instalment thereof.

7.

a) If Membership of a Member is suspended or revoked by the Executive Committee the Executive Committee shall immediately forward to that Member by registered mail to its official address written notice of such suspension/revocation giving the reasons for such suspension or revocation.

b) Within 90 days from the date of posting of such notice of suspension/revocation (or with the written approval of the Executive Committee at any time thereafter) the Member may give notice in writing to the World Alliance of its intention to appeal against such suspension/revocation (referred to as the “Notice of Appeal”). The Notice of Appeal shall specify the reasons why, in the opinion of the Member, the suspension or revocation of the Membership should be cancelled and its full right of Membership restored.

c) If the Member has delivered the Notice of Appeal to the World Alliance in the manner described in paragraph 7 (b) above then the Executive Committee shall have the matter placed on the agenda of the next World Council Meeting for final determination by the World Council, whose decision shall be binding, provided a minimum of two thirds of those present and voting at such meeting pass a resolution in favour of the suspension or revocation.

d) The Member shall be entitled to attend at its own expense and to address the World Council in support of its “Notice of Appeal”.

8. The Executive Committee shall at any time have the right to reinstate membership.

ARTICLE V
ORGANISATION

The World Alliance shall be organised and shall function as follows:

There shall be:

1. A World Council, being the executive medium through which the World Alliance shall act and which for such purpose shall have all the powers inherent in the World Alliance.

2. Officers of the World Alliance, who shall also be the Officers of the World Council and shall consist of a President, a Deputy President and a Treasurer.

3. An Executive Committee of the World Alliance.

4. Staff of the World Alliance, which shall consist of a Secretary General and such other Secretaries and Employees as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
ARTICLE VI
WORLD COUNCIL

1. Composition of the World Council:

The World Council shall consist of:

a) Members of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance as defined in Article VII, 1 (a).

b) Representatives from each Member of the World Alliance as defined in Article IV, 1 (a) to be appointed on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Range</th>
<th>Voting Representatives</th>
<th>Non-Voting Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 5,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001 to 25,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>25,001 to 125,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125,001 to 500,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,001 to 1,000,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 1,000,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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Such representation should, as far as possible, be composed of voluntary workers and be representative of the various sections of the aggregate Membership. The names of such representatives shall be notified to the World Alliance prior to the World Council. Where more than one Member of the World Alliance exists in any country, the representation shall be based on the aggregate Membership of those organisations, the seats to be divided on a pro rata basis.

c) Such honorary life Members as may be appointed by the World Council, with no power to vote.

d) The Secretary General of the World Alliance with no power to vote.

e) One representative appointed by each Associate of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

2. Functions

The functions of the World Council shall be to act on behalf of the World Alliance so that the World Alliance may fulfil the purpose and objects defined in Article II of this Constitution, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, in particular:

To provide leadership, inspiration and motivation, foster the Christian dimension and unity of the Movement, promote fellowship and sharing, review international issues, and give orientation to and strengthen the YMCA Movement.

3. Meetings
a) The World Council shall meet at least once every four years. An extraordinary meeting shall be held if requested by not less than one-fifth of the Members of the World Alliance.

b) A quorum for the World Council shall be 40 voting representatives of the World Council representing not less than one third of the Members of the World Alliance being present at such a meeting. No meeting shall proceed to transact any business unless a quorum is present.

c) The President or Deputy President of the World Alliance, or failing such persons, a Member of the World Council nominated for that purpose by the Executive Committee, shall preside at the meeting of the World Council.

4. Business of World Council Meetings
a) To receive and consider the report of the Secretary General and of the President on behalf of the Executive Committee for the period since the last such meeting, and to receive a duly audited balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditure.

b) To elect the Officers and other Members of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance.

c) To receive and consider proposals and recommendations concerning any matter or policy affecting the World Alliance or YMCA movement generally and if thought appropriate to adopt such proposals or recommendations with or without amendment.

d) To consider and adjudicate upon all questions of Membership and Associateship of the World Alliance.

e) To appoint such committees and their respective chairpersons as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

f) To transact any other business which in the opinion of the President may be expedient.

5. Votes

a) At any meeting of the World Council voting shall be as defined in Article VI, 1, (a) and (b).

b) Voting shall normally be by show of hands. The Presiding Officer shall first ask for those in favour to vote; then those who are opposed; then those who abstain.

c) A simple majority of Members present and voting shall suffice for a decision except when the motion is to reconsider a decision where a two thirds majority is required.

d) The number of abstentions does not affect the result of the vote.

e) If there is a tie vote, the proposal is defeated. This does not remove the right of the Presiding Officer to use his/her vote or to abstain if he/she so wishes, but such officer shall have no casting vote.
f) A private written ballot may be authorised by the Presiding Officer at his/her discretion or if requested by a majority of the Members present. The result of such a ballot shall determine the resolution of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Composition

a) The Executive Committee shall consist of:

i) The Officers of the World Alliance elected by the World Council, each representing different geographic regions.

ii) Twenty-three persons elected by the World Council representing different geographic regions, of whom at least eight shall be 30 years of age or under when elected, and at least eight of the twenty-three shall be women.

iii) Presidents of Area Organisations recognised by the World Council.

iv) Co-optees as mentioned in article VII, 1, (d)

v) The Secretary General of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

vi) Immediate Past President of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

vii) Y’s Men International Liaison to the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

b)

i) The elected Members shall continue as Members of the Executive Committee until the election of such Committee at the next regular meeting of the World Council following their election.

ii) Executive Committee Members shall serve on the Committee for a maximum of three consecutive terms, but no Member shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an Officer or as an ordinary Member of the Committee.

iii) The above limitation shall not apply to Members who serve in the capacity of President of an Area Organisation.

c) The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint as temporary Member or Members of the Executive Committee for the purposes of any particular meeting a substitute or substitutes for any Member or Members of the Executive Committee from whom previous notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General of the inability of such Member or Members to attend such meeting of the Executive Committee. Such substitute shall meet the applicable criteria for nomination as provided in the By-Laws.

d) The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint as Member or Members of the Executive Committee for the purposes of the outstanding meetings until the next election of the Executive Committee in a World Council Meeting a substitute or substitutes for
any Member or Members of the Executive Committee who no longer fulfil the requirements of eligibility or from whom previous notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General of the retirement of Membership of the Executive Committee. In such cases the Executive Committee will request the Member Movements within the geographical region the leaving Member comes from, to nominate a successor from that geographical region. Such substitute shall meet the applicable criteria for nomination as provided in the By-Laws. In appointing the Member, the Executive Committee shall observe as far as possible the representation of young people and women as determined in the By-Laws. If that appointment takes the Committee below the youth or women's quota, then the Committee is empowered to co-opt an additional Member to restore the balance. Co-optees will have full power of vote.

2. Functions of the Executive Committee
   a) To carry out the policy and specific instructions of the World Council, to complete all matters committed to its charge, and to act with all the powers of the World Council (save as provided in Article IV Sections 1 and 2, Article XV and Article XVI).
   b) To monitor the work, finances and personnel of the World Alliance.
   c) To undertake the planning and orientation of World Council meetings.
   d) To undertake such actions and responsibilities as deemed necessary for the good governance of the World Alliance and as required by the World Alliance or World Council in compliance with the Constitution, resolutions and all proposals of the World Council.
   e) To appoint the Secretary General.
   f) To represent the World Alliance in its relationship with other world organisations.
   g) To issue each year the call for observance by Young Men’s Christian Associations throughout the world of the Week of Prayer and World Fellowship.

3. Quorum for Executive Meetings
   a) No meeting shall proceed to transact any business unless there is a quorum. A majority of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum at the meetings.
   b) A simple majority of Members present and voting shall suffice for a decision and each Member present shall be entitled to one vote.
   c) The number of abstentions does not affect the result of the vote.

4. Meetings
   a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually. An extraordinary meeting shall be held if called by the President or if requested by not less than one fifth of the Executive Committee Members.
ARTICLE VIII
ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an Election Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee.

2. Elections will take place at the World Council by secret ballot, in accordance with the By-Laws.

3. The process will follow the Rules of Procedure and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX
CONFERENCES

The World Council shall convene from time to time such Conferences as may be deemed necessary for consultation and consideration of conditions affecting its activities and for the making of such recommendations to the Movement as such Conferences may consider advisable. Such Conferences shall aim at developing the spirit of Christian fellowship among Members and Associates and strengthening the sense of Christian mission of the World Alliance.

ARTICLE X
HEADQUARTERS AND LEGAL STATUS

1. The location of the Headquarters of the World Alliance shall be at the discretion of the World Council, at which at least two thirds of the Members present and voting record their votes in favour of any re-location.

2. It is intended and hereby declared that the World Alliance shall have corporate existence and therefore acquire the status of a person in accordance with the legal requirements of the country where the World Alliance office is located.
ARTICLE XI
FINANCE AND PROPERTY

1. The funds of the World Alliance shall be furnished by the contributions and subscriptions of Members and Associates, income from its operations and investments, and bequests, donations and income from any other source.

2. The World Council shall have the right to acquire and hold real and personal property in any part of the world and all such property shall be held in the name of or on trust for the World Alliance.

3. The liability of the World Alliance and the World Council shall be limited to the value of the said funds and property to the exclusion of all individual liability.

ARTICLE XII
JOHN R. MOTT ENDOWMENT FUND

1. A separate and segregated account from all other accounts, known as the John R. Mott Endowment Fund, shall be established in the accounting books of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

2. The use and management of the proceeds and income of the said account shall be entrusted to the World Alliance Executive Committee. This shall include the annual selection of portfolio manager(s), investment specifications, directions, and annual evaluation of results.

3. The following shall apply as to the disposition and use of the capital amount deposited in the John R. Mott Endowment Fund:
   a) No disposition or use of the capital amount other than by means of investment shall be made or effected without the approval of two thirds of the Members of the World Council.
   b) The above limitation and procedure of requirements apply for the use of the said amounts as collateral for a loan or by any similar process.

4. The following shall apply to the use and management of the income derived from the investment of the capital amounts deposited in the John R. Mott Endowment Fund:
   a) The capital of the John R. Mott must be protected with its initial value of CHF 15,892,428.
   b) The average market value of the fund over the previous 20 quarters must be applied to the use of the funds. The yearly evaluation of the previous 20 quarters must be done at 31st December of the previous year, beginning with 31st December 2005.
   c) In case the average market value of the fund falls below the protected fund value of CHF 15,892,428, no withdrawal can be made.
   d) In case the average market value of the fund exceeds the protected fund value, a maximum of 2.5% of this average market value of the fund may be used.
ARTICLE XIII
SIGNATURES BINDING THE WORLD ALLIANCE

The World Alliance and the World Council shall be bound by such signatures of its Officers and members of Staff and in such circumstances as shall be laid down from time to time by the World Council.

ARTICLE XIV
VALIDITY OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

1. The proceedings at any meeting of the World Council or any of the various committees of the World Alliance or World Council shall not be invalidated by any vacancy in the Membership of the body concerned or through notice of such meeting duly dispatched failing to reach any Member of such body.

2. None of the decisions and actions of the World Council or the Executive Committee shall, except in respect of matters referred to in Articles IV, XV and XVI, be binding on Members or Associates of the World Alliance unless and until such decision or action shall have been adopted or confirmed by the individual body or bodies concerned.

3. The provisions of this Constitution shall not be considered as conferring on the World Council or the Executive Committee any right to interfere with the domestic affairs of any Member or Associate of the World Alliance.

ARTICLE XV
ALTERATIONS

Any alteration of this Constitution shall be made only at a meeting of the World Council at which a minimum of two thirds of Members present and voting record their votes in favour of such alteration. No such alteration shall be valid unless prior notice in writing containing a copy of such proposed alteration shall have been given to the World Alliance and circulated to all Members of the World Alliance not less than ten months prior to the World Council Meeting at which the proposal will be considered.

ARTICLE XVI
DISSOLUTION

1. The World Alliance shall only be dissolved at a meeting of the World Council and then only if at least two-thirds of those Members present and voting at such a meeting shall record their votes in favour of the resolution proposing such dissolution.

2. No proposal for dissolution of the World Alliance shall be entertained unless notice, in writing, of the proposed resolution of dissolution shall have been given to the Members of the World Alliance by the Secretary General at least ten months prior to the opening session of the World Council at which such resolution will be proposed.

3. The resolution for dissolution shall name five of the Members of the World Council to act as Trustees (hereinafter called "the Trustees") and, on the resolution being passed as provided in Section 1 of this Article, the property and funds of the World Alliance shall be transferred to the Trustees to be held by them on trust for five years. If, however, before the expiration of such
period of five years, a new world organisation of Young Men's Christian Associations shall be existing or shall be founded and the Trustees shall in their sole judgement and discretion be satisfied that the principles and purpose of such organisation are in harmony with those of the World Alliance, the said property and funds shall be transferred to and delivered by the Trustees to such organisation upon such terms and subject to such conditions (if any) as the Trustees consider appropriate.

The assets available after dissolution can only be attributed to a legal entity that has the same goal as YMCA, and, fulfils the prerequisites of the Geneva Tax exemption. Under no circumstances can any assets be returned to any person be he/she a founder or a donator or a member, nor be used for his/her benefit any way in part or in whole.

4. If no such new organisation shall be existing or have been founded during such period of five years, the Trustees shall convert and realise the property and funds to the best advantage, having regard to all attendant circumstances and conveniences, and distribute the proceeds, less the costs and expenses of dissolution and winding up, among those bodies which were Members of the World Alliance at the date of the resolution for dissolution in the same proportions as their aggregate contributions during the five years immediately preceding such resolution, subject always to the provision that only such Members shall receive a share who in the sole opinion of the Trustees are at the time of the distribution working in harmony with the principles and purposes of the World Alliance.

5. After such dissolution no former Member or Associate of the World Alliance or former Member of any of its constituent bodies shall have the right to take any legal action or prefer any claim in any country with regard to any decision or action taken by the Trustees.

ARTICLE XVII
BY-LAWS

1. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to promulgate, amend and adopt By-Laws and Rules of Procedure from time to time, provided however such By-Laws and Procedures shall not be inconsistent with the terms and provisos herein and in the event of any inconsistency the terms of the Constitution shall prevail.

2. The Executive Committee shall forward copies of the By-Laws and of any amendments thereto to all national movements immediately following such changes.

ARTICLE XVIII
APPROVED TEXTS

The approved texts of this Constitution shall be the English, French, German and Spanish texts as passed by the World's Conference at Paris in 1955 or as subsequently amended by the World Council. The English text shall be decisive in any case of doubt as to the sense, construction, meaning and purport of any article.

*The Constitution of the World Alliance of YMCAs was approved by the XXII World's Conference in 1955, and amended by the 6th World Council in 1973, the 9th World Council in 1985, the 12th World Council in 1991, the 13th World Council in 1994, the 14th World Council in 1998, the 15th World Council in 2002, the 16th World Council in 2006, and the 17th World Council in 2010.*