

IFM-SEI Constitution



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IFM-SEI STATUTES

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IFM-SEI statutes

I. Aims and Principles

1.1 The International Falcon Movement/ Socialist Educational International

(IFM-SEI) is an international educational and political movement, which unites children and young people and all who are willing to work for its aims and principles. It seeks to direct the energy and enthusiasm of youth towards the transformation of our present troubled world. Through its member organisations it strives to educate in the principles of universal tolerance, equality and friendship so essential for the creation of a world where all may live in peace and co-operation.

1.2 A World Organisation

IFM-SEI is a world movement of different types of organisations that work with children and young people and that accept the aims and principles of IFM-SEI.

1.3 Creating a Caring World

IFM-SEI seeks through its member organisations to develop children and young people with a critical awareness of the world and its present inequalities. We work with them to develop their knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to enable them to act to secure their equal participation in the democratic process, as well as, supporting those still fighting for their legitimate right to self-determination, in order to bring about the necessary changes to create a caring world.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is considered by IFM-SEI as a basic document with which to work.

1.4 Internationalism and Solidarity

The motto of IFM-SEI is "Span the world with friendship", therefore it will encourage and develop international understanding and foster co-operation through the use of camps, seminars, symposia, conferences and specialist educational projects to ensure that participants from member organisations have a greater understanding of common interests and are tolerant of others cultural differences.

1.5 Equality for All

IFM-SEI campaigns against all forms of discrimination and promotes equality of opportunity for all in its activities. IFM-SEI will ensure that its member organisations do not discriminate on grounds of race, gender, faith, sexual orientation or disability. A special focus is on gender equality as a principle to be implemented in all our statutory bodies and activities.

IFM-SEI will combat all forms of racism, fascism and xenophobic attitudes and tendencies by co-operating with other International organisations, UN agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

1.6 A sustainable world

IFM-SEI is concerned about the misuse of world's diminishing resources and the need to protect our environment for future generations. IFM-SEI will therefore encourage member organisations to protect their own rural and urban environment.

1.7 A World at Peace

IFM-SEI is dedicated to working for a world where everyone can live in freedom without war or poverty. IFM-SEI believes that there should be a transfer from resources dedicated to the destruction of life to resources dedicated to humanity's needs.

IFM-SEI will undertake peace education and promote peace initiatives wherever and whenever possible. Peace will only be really achieved when all forms of exploitation cease and the world community tackles the North/South divide.

IFM-SEI believes that everyone has the right to a secure, stimulating and healthy environment, in order that they can develop their own talents and abilities.

1.8 Education for democracy

IFM-SEI believes that it is necessary to supplement a child's school education by social and leisure time activities.

IFM-SEI will undertake its educational programme to ensure that its members develop a co-operative outlook that encourages a critical awareness and self-reliance. Children and young people should learn to take part in the democratic process of their organisation.

II. MEMBERSHIP

IFM-SEI only accepts into membership organisations that agree to abide by and implement the aims and principles as defined in the Statutes. The type of organisation can be defined as follows:

- Traditional Falcon Organisations that have links or association with their countries labour movement.
- Leisure time organisations.
- Peace and/or environmental organisations
- Educational and adult organisations working with children/young people dedicated to social change, on the issues of peace, development education and/or the environment.

Each organisation must have a democratic structure, which guarantees the participation of children and written constitution that embraces the concept of voluntary association, accepts the need for economic change and the transformation of the present world order.

2.1 Conditions of membership

To become a member of the IFM-SEI the applying organisation must be an observer for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years.

There are two forms of membership:

- Full member
- Associated member

2.2 Memberships

2.2.1 Full member

Full member organisations must meet the following membership criteria:

- a) Accept the aims and principles and statutes of IFM-SEI.
- b) Have a democratic structure and written statutes that embody the aims and principles of IFM-SEI. Changes of the statutes or the principles of the member organisations must be announced to the Presidium in English or Spanish.
- c) Demonstrate regular member activities for and with children and young people that have an educational programme and show that they are involved in the democratic structures and work.
- d) Operate at national or state level.
- e) Have fraternal contacts, wherever possible, with the labour movement in its country.

f) Not be a member of any other International organisation, whose work goes against the principles and practices of IFM-SEI.

g) In order to become a full member of IFM-SEI, the organisation must be visited by IFM-SEI where possible. If a visit is impossible, a Presidium member should meet the organisation and discuss the principles of IFM and the conditions of membership.

2.2.2 Associated member

Associate member organisations must meet the following criteria:

- a) One year as an observer.
- b) Compliance with the principles of full membership status (except 2.2.1.d)
- c) Operate at national or state level or being a local organisation that the International Committee approves for special reasons (for example a local organisation that meets the IFM-SEI's aims and work but have no possibility to act on a national or state level).

Associated members can take part in all IFM-SEI events and are kept regularly informed about the organisation. They have no voting rights in the IFM-SEI decision- making process.

2.3 Application procedure

Organisations requesting membership status must apply in writing to the secretariat a minimum of one month before the IC meeting or Congress. A copy of its statutes, aims and principles and details of activities in English or Spanish must accompany the application. A summary, together with the Presidium recommendation, will be provided to the IC or Congress delegates. The IFM-SEI Presidium will advise on introduced candidatures - advice should also be given by member organisations in the same country and in the same region.

- a) Applying organisations will receive a standard letter explaining the whole procedure.
- b) Applying organisations must be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the International Committee or the Congress.

2.4 Termination of membership

Membership may be suspended or terminated by a two-thirds majority of the International Committee (abstentions will not be counted), if the organisation in question has acted contrary to the principles, the Statutes and policy resolutions and/or financial obligations of IFM-SEI.

Where membership fees remain unpaid for more than two years from the due date,

the International Committee shall consider the circumstances and may terminate an organisation's membership. This will be subject to ratification by the next Congress.

The International Committee shall terminate organisations in the same way if the statutes or principles have changed and the obligations announced in point 2.2.1 are no longer being fulfilled.

2.5 Downgrading of membership

The downgrading of a member organisation's membership status from full member to associated membership is possible. In each case, it requires the approval of the International Committee (abstentions will not be counted).

However, even decisions of this kind taken by the International Committee must be subject to a final ruling at the next Congress.

2.6 Membership fee period

The membership fee period begins on 1 of January in the year following the year of the ordinary Congress. The period ends at the close of the year of the next ordinary Congress. The membership fee must be paid by 31 March every year. Failure to do so will result in the loss of a member organisation's voting rights during the current year. Fees outstanding for two or more years will be reported to the IC and may lead to the termination of an organisation's membership.

III. OBSERVERS

Observers are organisations that wish to observe the IFM-SEI and be observed by the IFM-SEI. The International Committee decides if an applicant will be accepted as observer by a two-thirds majority.

These organisations will be invited to all IFM-SEI events. They have no voting rights in the IFM-SEI decision-making process.

After a minimum of one and a maximum of two years these organisations must decide whether to upgrade their status and apply to be a member or to end the co-operation.

3.1 Application procedure

Organisations requesting observer status must apply in writing to the secretariat at least one month before the International Committee or Congress. The application must be accompanied by a copy of its statutes, aims and principles and details of activities in English or Spanish. A summary, together with the Presidium recommendation, will be provided to the IC or Congress delegates. The IFM-SEI presidium will advise on introduced candidatures - advice should also be given by member organisations in the same country and region.

Applying organisations will receive a standard letter explaining the whole procedure.

An observer can take part in all IFM-SEI events and are kept regularly informed about the organisation. They have no voting rights in the IFM-SEI decision-making process.

IV. FRATERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Fraternal organisations are the Socialist International, Socialist International Women, International Union of Socialist Youth, the Party of European Socialists (PES) and European Community Organisation of Socialist Youth (ECOSY).

V. STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The following bodies make up the structure and organisation of the IFM-SEI, ranked in decision-making order.

- The IFM-SEI Congress
- International Committee
- Presidium

Functions and structures also part of IFM-SEI:

Also belonging to the organisation: (not ranked in order of decision-making)

- The Secretary General
- The Control Commission
- The Olof Palme Institute

VI. CONGRESS:

6.1 The Congress is the supreme body of IFM-SEI. It shall be convened three years after its last meeting. Invitations shall be issued by the International Committee, together with the draft agenda. The Congress shall be convened at the latest six months before the day of Congress opening.

6.2 An Extraordinary Congress, at the request of the majority of IFM-SEI full member organisations, must be convened at the latest, four weeks before its opening.

6.3 The Secretary General, Presidium, the Control Commission and delegates of the member organisations are entitled to participate in the Congress.

6.4 Each full member organisation is entitled to:

1 vote for	150 - 2.000 members
2 votes for above	2.000 members
3 votes for above	5.000 members
4 votes for above	9.000 members
5 votes for above	14.000 members

The number of members shall be confirmed by the member organisations one year before Congress. The membership fee for the period beginning after the Congress is based on the number of declared members. The delegation should be gender balanced.

6.5 The number of delegates from associated organisations shall be determined by the International Committee. Organisations and institutions that co-operate with the IFM-SEI as well as additional guests shall be invited only on the basis of a Presidium resolution.

6.6 The Congress shall, by the time of its opening, decide on its rules of procedure, prepared by the International Committee and appoint a Mandates Commission of 5 people to advise Congress of the number of delegates, the nominations and to record the elections. The elected members of the Commission must fulfil the gender balance of 50% plus/minus 1 person.

6.7 The Congress will elect a Nomination Commission of 5 people. The Nomination commission has to take note of its findings and distribute a complete list of the candidates nominated. The elected members of the Commission must fulfil the gender balance of 50% plus/minus 1 person.

6.8 The Congress shall take decisions on all matters relating to the IFM-SEI

- The report on the organisation and its finances
- The Control Commission's report
- Amendments to the statutes
- The level of membership fees
- The action programme for the coming Congress period
- The election of the President
- The election of Vice Presidents
- The election of the Control Commission
- The election of the Secretary General

6.9 The Congress shall vote according to following procedure.

Each member organisation participating at the Congress has as many mandated votes as can be attributed under section 5 paragraph 5.4 and depending on the membership fee paid.

Only mandated delegates shall be entitled to vote in the Congress. The election of the President, min.7 and max.9 Vice Presidents, Control Commission and Secretary General, are done by secret ballot if requested by one of the full member organisation present at the Congress.

6.10 Only Full Member Organisations, the International Committee and the Presidium are entitled to table motions and submit proposals to the Congress. Submissions must be made to the secretariat at least three months before the opening of the Congress.

6.11 Motions and nominations may be submitted at the Congress if they are supported by seven member organisations. Amendments regarding changes to the statutes cannot be made at the congress.

6.12 Nominations for the posts of President, Secretary General, Vice Presidents, and the Control Commission must be accompanied by a declaration from the candidates, confirming his or her willingness to take the post if elected as well as a declaration from the national organisation supporting the candidature. Only full member organisations are allowed to candidate. The Presidium should prepare the elections beforehand by setting up a preparatory nomination commission.

6.13 The Congress has to ensure that organisations from different parts of the world are represented in the bodies of the IFM-SEI and that the gender balance is guaranteed.

6.14 Congress documents must be sent out by the secretariat at least two months before the opening of the meeting.

6.15 The International Committee shall approve the minutes of the Congress.

VII. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

7.1 The International Committee (IC) is IFM-SEI' s highest decision and administrative body during the Congress period. It is made up of all members of IFM-SEI, together with the Presidium. Each full member organisation has one vote as do the members of the Presidium. The chairperson of the Control Commission shall also be a member in an advisory capacity without voting rights.

7.2 The International Committee shall meet at least once in every year in which an Ordinary Congress is held, and at least twice in every other year. The meetings shall be prepared and convened by the Presidium. There shall be a period of at least 12 hours between the end of one International Committee meeting and the beginning of another.

7.3 The tasks of the International Committee are:

- To implement the resolutions adopted by Congress.
- To encourage activities in the context of the action programme.
- To decide on the annual balance

- To decide on the annual budget.
- To propose to Congress a membership fee for the coming period.
- To arrange necessary elections, whenever Presidium and Control Commission members stand down.
- To handle and take decisions in membership questions.
- To create working groups.

One meeting of the International Committee in each year will be designated the “finance meeting”. The Presidium will ensure that this meeting takes place within 6 months of the end of the preceding financial year. At this meeting, the International Committee will consider items relating to finance, and shall concentrate on the following tasks:

- To decide on the annual balance
- To decide on the annual budget
- To discuss membership fees and make proposals to a following Congress, where appropriate.

7.4 The International Committee shall seek co-operation with other international institutions and organisations whose goals might further those to the IFM-SEI. The people it appoints to liaise with such institutions and organisations shall be directly responsible to the International Committee.

7.5 The International Committee can after specifying their field of activity set up special committees to work under its responsibility.

7.6 The International Committee may delegate particular tasks and activities to member organisations, subject to conditions, which it shall impose.

VIII.PRESIDIUM

8.1 The Presidium consists of the President, the Secretary General and a minimum of seven and maximum of for nine Vice Presidents.

The chair of the Control Commission should also participate in the Presidium meetings. The Presidium must fulfil the gender balance of 50% plus/minus 1 person.

8.2 At its first meeting the Presidium will divide the workload amongst its members. Every Presidium member, assisted by the secretariat, will take on an area of responsibility, concerning a specific field or region in the IFM-SEI. He/she will report on this to the International Committee and the Congress.

8.3 The Presidium should have at least three meetings per year.

8.4 Its task is to follow the IFM-SEI’s day-to-day work. To oversee the development of the different resolutions. To establish the agenda, identify priorities, consider financial

requests and take responsibility for the finances.

8.5 The President and the Secretary General shall represent the IFM-SEI in all legal matters. They are normally empowered to sign on behalf of the International and enter into legal commitments.

IX. THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT

9.1 The Secretary General is responsible for the political and organisational developments in IFM-SEI. He/she should be actively involved in his/her national organisation and have political relations with the labour movement. The Secretary General is responsible for the daily work and organisational work of the secretariat, regional secretariats and working groups in IFM-SEI.

9.2 It is his/her duty to establish and maintain contacts with member organisations, and with potential associations and organisations which are of importance to the IFM-SEI.

9.3 He/she shall represent the IFM-SEI in all matters regarding the organisation, this in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the Presidium, President and International Committee.

9.4 He/she will after discussions with the President prepare the content and organisation of the Presidium and International Committee meetings as well as prepare political discussions at the Executive and International Committee meetings.

9.5 He/She shall submit the draft annual budget to the Presidium.

9.6 He/She is responsible for the accounts. He/She is also responsible for keeping the records of the Presidium and International Committee meetings.

9.7 Should the Secretary General resign, the International Committee should appoint a new Secretary General until the next Congress.

The Secretary General shall be elected for a maximum of two Congress periods.

X. CONTROL COMMISSION

10.1 The Control Commission (CC), consists of three persons, each must come from a different member organisation. The commission must fulfil the gender balance of 50% plus/minus one person. It shall choose it's own chair from among it's members.

10.2 The Control Commission shall watch over the compliance with the constitution and has the right to check decisions of the Congress and the International Committee.

10.3 The Presidium must respond without delay to any question raised by the Financial Auditors and Control Commission.

10.4 The Control Commission is responsible for the control of the administration of IFM-SEI business. It may inspect the IFM-SEI books and finances whenever it wishes, but must do so in any event no later than two months after the end of each financial period.

10.5 The Control Commission shall have no voting rights in the Presidium and the International Committee.

XI. OLOF PALME INSTITUTE - OPI

The Olof Palme Institute is the International Education and Training Institute of IFM-SEI. The OPI shall seek to develop educational methods and techniques, compatible and consistent with the aims and principles of IFM-SEI in order to promote it's educational and international work.

One member of the Presidium shall be appointed to have a special liaison role with the OPI. The International Committee and the Presidium of IFM-SEI is in charge of the management of the institute in accordance with the agreement between the host organisation and IFM-SEI.

XII. REGIONAL NETWORK

11.1 IFM-SEI member organisations in a geographic area can establish a regional network. All organisations in the region must agree upon this.

11.2 The tasks for the regional network and the organisations are to be decided by the regional organisations themselves but they should ensure they work within the

constitution and statutes of the IFM-SEI.

The Regional Networks have the right to make proposals to the Presidium and International Committee and Congress.

11.3 Regional Networks can apply to the Presidium to get financial support.

XIII. VOTING

12.1 Voting shall be by a show of hands, unless three member organisations wish each vote to be recorded.

12.2 Decisions shall be taken on a simple majority basis. Abstentions will not be counted. If the vote is inconclusive, the motion shall be deemed rejected.

12.3 A two-thirds majority of the votes held shall be required to accept into membership, upgrade, downgrade or terminate the membership of any organisation.

A two-thirds majority of the votes held shall be required to change the statutes, aims, principles and headquarters of IFM-SEI.

12.4 A mailing voting system can be used whenever the International Committee finds it necessary. They will also decide the procedure for it.

12.5 Every statutory meeting has a quorum of at least 30 %. If the quorum is not achieved the meeting has to be re-convened a second time. For the Congress a period of six weeks is needed. For the second time no quorum is needed.

XIV. DISSOLUTION

Congress may dissolve the IFM-SEI only on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

If dissolution should occur, all property and assets belonging to the IFM-SEI shall revert to the Socialist International with the stipulation that they should be used for work with children and youth.

XV. PROVISION

These statutes shall come into force as soon as the resolution pertaining to it is adopted.

Any change must be in accordance with the legal statutes as registered at the legal headquarters of the organisation.