

STATUTES

Of the Association *Médecins sans Frontières, Norway* (Approved by the EGA 19.06.2012)

§ 1

Name of the Association

The name of the Association is *Médecins Sans Frontières, Norway*
(the locally used name will be *Leger Uten Grenser, Norge*)

§ 2

Head Office of the Association

The Head Office of the Association shall be located in Oslo.

§ 3

Principles

Médecins Sans Frontières, Norway has a humanitarian purpose. The Association shall cooperate with, and be guided by, the same principles as the international organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

The members of the Association shall only act according to the following founding charter of the organisation:

-Médecins Sans Frontières offers assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict, without discrimination and irrespective of race, creed or political affiliation.

-Médecins Sans Frontières observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance and demands full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions.

-Médecins Sans Frontières' volunteers undertake to respect their professional code of ethics and to maintain complete independence from all political, economic and religious powers.

-As volunteers, members are aware of the risks and dangers of the missions they undertake, and have no right to compensation for themselves or their beneficiaries other than that which Médecins Sans Frontières is able to afford them.

§ 4 Objectives

The main objectives of the Association shall be to:

- a. Recruit health personnel and any other operational staff to work in accordance with the principles of MSF International.
- b. Spread information and attract public and financial support for its international “Médecins Sans Frontières”- work and collect funds for the activities of the Association.
- c. Contribute to the implementation of projects initiated by MSF International and thus participate in the world-wide activities of MSF.

§ 5 Membership Association MSF Norway

All persons who, in accordance with the principles of MSF and who fulfil the criteria mentioned below may become members by applying for membership and paying the annual membership fee.

The members of the Association are divided into members **with** voting rights and members **without** voting rights during the General Assembly and extraordinary General Assembly.

In order to become a **member with voting rights**, one of the following criteria must be fulfilled within the last 5 years:

- a) A minimum of 6 months work on an MSF mission or experience from at least 2 missions as MSF international staff.
- b) A minimum of 1 year regular work as office volunteer for MSF, regular work defined as equivalent of 1 day pr week.
- c) A minimum of 1 year work as an office employee of MSF.
- d) A minimum of 1 year participation in one of the associative groups or unpaid support to office activities in MSF. The participation of each member of the associative groups must be stated in the groups’ annual report to the board to fulfil the criteria of voting rights. All board members will automatically have voting rights.
- e) The General Assembly may co- opt members with voting rights if the member sends an application to the Association prior to the GA. A co-opted member with voting rights requires support from minimum 2/3 of the GA.

In order to remain a **member with voting rights**, one must pay the annual fee. If the fee is not paid in 5 years the member loses his/her voting right until one of the criteria mentioned above again is fulfilled.

In order to become a **member without voting rights** one of the following criteria must be fulfilled

- f) MSF Norway international staff, Office volunteers, Office staff, Associative group members, Headquarter staff and National staff not fulfilling or not longer fulfilling criteria mentioned in a- d.
- g) Co- opted on the following criteria of showing special commitment or by having valuable expertise to MSF. The board is delegated the mandate of co-opting members without voting rights.

Members can withdraw from the Association by simple written notification.

The Board has the right to exclude a member from the Association. Exclusion is justifiable when a member acts in contradiction to the principles of the Association or speaks out publicly in the name of the Association without being authorised to do so. Such exclusion comes directly into effect. An excluded member has a right of appeal at the next General Assembly or extraordinary General Assembly

The members of the Association have the right to regularly receive both information about the Association and invitation to all Associative activities

§ 6

The Board

The board consists of 5-11 members, where 5-9 members are elected by the General Assembly. One should strive to have the majority of the board members as medical. The elected Board may co-opt two additional board members with voting right, if deemed necessary to obtain needed resources lacking in the board. The additional Board member(s) are co-opted for one (1) year. Board members may not hold a paid position in an MSF office.

The General Assembly elects the president. The Board elects a vice president, a treasurer, and a secretary. The Board appoints the president and elects one more of its members as IGA representatives. One of the IGA representatives must have medical background. IGA representatives are elected for three (3) years.

The Board approves an annual plan of activities and a budget (both prepared and presented by the Executive Director).

The President convenes and prepares the Board meetings.

The Board may collaborate with external persons (without voting-right) and may establish working groups or committees of inquiry.

Board decisions are made by simple majority on the condition that a minimum of 5 of the Board members are present, among whom, one must be the President or the Vice President.

Minutes shall be worked out and signed by the President of the Board and at least two other Board members.

The legal signature of the Association is held by the President and one Board member.

The executive of MSF Norway may appoint a representative to the board without voting right.

§ 7

General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly is the highest organ of the Association. It shall be held annually. The General Assembly shall be called at last one month prior to the date of the Assembly, by means of email or mail to all members of the Association and by announcement on a notice board in the office of the Association.

The Board decides whether further announcement shall be made.

The agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly shall be as follows:

- a. Approval of summoning
- b. Account of persons with the right to vote
- c. Approval of the agenda
- d. Election of a Chairperson, a counting crew for cast votes and two members who, together with the Chairperson, shall sign the minutes.
- e. Presentation and approval of the Board's report and the accounts of the Association including the auditor's statement
- f. Whether to free the Board from liability
- g. Whether to change the membership fee
- h. Election of president and board members, electoral committee and election of auditor. President and board members are elected for a period of two (2) years. All voting and non- voting members are eligible as president, board member and electoral committee. President and board members are elected according to the following procedure;

There will be two major rounds of voting. The General Assembly first elects the President and then board members for vacant positions.

The President requires a minimum support from $\frac{1}{2}$ of the votes. If after a first round of voting for president, no candidates have more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the votes, a second round will be made with the two candidates with most votes.

The General Assembly elects candidates equivalent to the number of vacant board positions. Those candidates receiving most votes will be elected board members. If, due to equal number of votes, it is not possible to settle the election for all board members, a new round of voting has to be held among those with equal number of vote. Board members require a minimum support of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the votes at the general assembly.

An electoral committee is elected at each GA. The electoral committee must secure that the associative is well aware of the possibility to become a board member and promote and further inform about these positions. The electoral committee will contact possible candidates for president and board member in advance of the following General Assembly. The electoral committee should secure that there are enough candidates for all positions in the board and strive to achieve the composition of the board as described in § 6.

The General Assembly will consider issues or suggestions from the Board or members of the Association if these have been presented to the Board or to the Head of Office (Executive Director) at least one month prior to the General Assembly.

The votes for board members and president will be weighted so that not more than 1/3 of the votes may come from members fulfilling the criteria b) or c) and currently in a position paid by MSF or currently office volunteer in MSF-Norway. At all other times all members have a full and equal vote.

Members who are not present at the General Assembly may authorize another member to vote on his/hers behalf. A member may only vote on behalf of two other members. Authorisation is to be given in writing.

The General Assembly can approve additional issues to be discussed.

§ 8

Extraordinary General Assembly

An Extraordinary General Assembly is held when the Board finds it necessary or when it is demanded by at least 2/5 of the members with voting rights. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be called at least two weeks prior to the Assembly, and all members shall be notified of the issues that justify the Assembly.

§ 9

Decisions made by the General Assembly

Decisions of an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly are made by simple majority unless otherwise specified in the statutes.

An Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly is only competent to make decisions if the Assembly is convened and carried out in accordance with the statutes.

§ 10

Changing the Statutes

The statutes of the Association may only be changed by a majority of 2/3 or more of the cast votes. Proposals for changes of statutes from the Board should be sent out to the members of the Association 6 weeks before the General Assembly. Proposals for changes of statutes from members of the Association should be sent to the Board at least one month prior to the General Assembly.

§§ 1,2,3,4, 10 and 12 may only be changed by the General Assembly when ¾ of the members of the Board supports the proposal prior to the General Assembly.

A modification of the statutes 1, 3, 4, 10, 12 will only be effected after approval by the MSF International General Assembly.

§ 11
Accounts

The Board's management of funds and the accounts of the Association shall annually be subject to inspection by the auditors appointed by the General Assembly. The working year equals the calendar year.

§ 12
Termination of Activities

The Association may only terminate its operations following a decision by two consecutive General Assemblies, of which at least one shall be Ordinary. For a valid decision a minimum 2/3 majority of the votes is required in each General Assembly.

After a valid decision to end activities, the net funds of the Association – after covering financial liabilities – shall go to MSF International.