

STATUTES OF THE WORLD RURAL FORUM



The Statutes were made respecting the Law of Associations of the Basque Country, with the conditions that it sets for writing.

These Statutes were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly of the World Rural Forum held on February 23, 2018.

Statutes of the World Rural Forum
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CHAPTER ONE

NAME AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Article 1 - These Statutes of the WORLD RURAL FORUM Development Association have been amended in accordance with the provisions of Basque Country Law 7/2007 of 22 June 2007 on Associations and of Organic Law 1/2002 of 22 March 2002 regulating the Right of Association, in compliance with the provisions of Articles 9 and 10.13 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Basque Country.

The Association shall be governed by the provisions of the aforementioned Laws on Associations, by these Statutes insofar as they do not conflict with the Law, by the decisions validly adopted by the Association's governing bodies insofar as they are not contrary to the Law and/or the Statutes, and, on a purely ancillary basis, by the regulatory provisions approved by the Basque Government.

PURPOSE

Article 2 - The Association's PURPOSE shall be to promote Family Farming and Sustainable Rural Development.

AIMS

Article 3 - The AIMS of this Association shall be:

- To promote sustainable rural development across all five continents;
- To promote better public policies for Family Farming and effective implementation of them;
- To promote gender equity in Family Farming and rural development;
- To promote the integration, incorporation and equal participation of young people in Family Farming and rural development processes;
- To support the strengthening and empowerment of Family Farming organizations and other organizations working in a rural context;
- To bring about agreement and concertation between organizations, groups, institutions and persons who share similar approaches to support for rural life;

- To consider and analyse the effects of globalisation on rural life, rural societies, the rural economy and the rural environment;
- To back the formulation and introduction of integrated sustainable development policies in the rural environment;
- To promote exchanges of experience;
- To promote solidarity and cooperation in the interests of development, and
- To promote participatory agricultural research.

In order to achieve these aims, the following ACTIVITIES shall be carried out, with due regard for the legal requirements laid down:

- Constantly strengthening the worldwide network of Family Farming organizations, other civil society organizations, research centres, cooperatives, NGOs and foundations;
- Conducting political advocacy and dialogue activities as an exercise in democratic participation by civil society in the construction of public policies affecting it;
- Backing the achievement of public policies;
- Organising forums, symposiums, conferences and regular meetings, as well as setting up working parties to discuss issues relating to rural development;
- Providing support for members;
- Conducting research;
- Managing knowledge and communication;
- Providing consultancy services;
- Conducting and promoting development cooperation activities.

Without prejudice to the activities described in the previous paragraph, the Association may, in order to meet its objectives:

- Develop economic activities of all kinds designed to achieve its aims or raise funds for that purpose;
- Purchase and own goods of all kinds in any capacity, as well as sign acts and enter into contracts of all types;
- Bring proceedings of any kind in accordance with the Laws and with its Statutes.

REGISTERED OFFICE

Article 4 - The head office of this Association shall be located at Granja Modelo s/n in Arkaute (Álava) in the Basque Country.

The General Assembly shall decide to open and close other delegations, agencies, branches, offices, premises, etc. as it considers appropriate for the Association's requirements and potential.

TERRITORIAL SCOPE

Article 5 - The main territorial scope of the Association's functions shall be the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, without prejudice to their international outreach.

DURATION AND DEMOCRATIC NATURE

Article 6 - The Association shall be of a permanent nature, and may be dissolved only by decision of the Extraordinary General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 or on any of the grounds laid down by law.

The internal organisation and operation of the Association must be democratic, with full respect for pluralism. Any pacts, statutory provisions or decisions which fail to comply with any aspect of the fundamental right of association shall be automatically void.

CHAPTER TWO

GOVERNING BODIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Article 7 - The governing and administration of the Association shall be the responsibility of the following bodies:

- the General Assembly of members, as the supreme body;
- the Board, as the permanent collegial management body;

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 8 - The General Assembly shall comprise all of the members.

The General Assembly shall have the following powers:

- To approve the Association's general action plan;
- To examine and approve the annual accounts and the budget for the following year;
- To approve the management activities of the Board;
- To amend the Statutes;
- To dissolve the Association;
- To elect and dismiss the president, the secretary, the treasurer and, where appropriate, all the other members of the collegial governing body, as well as to supervise and control their activities;
- To enter into federal or confederal agreements with other associations and to withdraw from such agreements;
- To approve the disposal and transfer of immovable property;
- To agree on remuneration for the members of the governing body, where applicable;
- To set the ordinary and extraordinary membership fees, or delegate the power to do so to the Board by express agreement;
- To adopt the decision on the definitive withdrawal of members;
- To exercise any other power not attributed to another body.

Article 9 - The General Assembly shall meet in ordinary and extraordinary sessions.

- Article 10 - The General Assembly shall be convened in ordinary session at least once a year to adopt the decisions provided for in Article 8 a), b) and c).
- Article 11 - The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session when a decision to that effect is taken by the Board, either on its own initiative or at the request of at least one third of the members; the decision shall set out the reasons for and purpose of the meeting. Such a meeting shall be required in any event to take cognisance of and decide on the following matters:
- Statutory Amendments.
 - Dissolution of the Association.
- The posts of President and Secretary of the General Assembly shall be held by the holders of the same posts on the Board. Where the latter posts are vacant or where their holders are absent, appointments for the General Assembly shall be made by a majority vote of those attending.
- Article 12 - Meetings of the General Assembly shall be convened in writing, stating the venue, date and time of the meeting and setting out the agenda with a precise list of the items to be addressed. The first session of the Assembly must be convened at least fifteen days in advance; where appropriate, the date and time of the second session may be set at the same time but there must be an interval of not less than half an hour between the two sessions.
- A General Assembly, whether ordinary or extraordinary, shall be validly constituted at its first session if it is attended by one third of the members having the right to vote; at its second session no minimum shall be required.
- At the invitation of the President, non-members who take part in the activities of the Association may attend meetings of the General Assembly.
- Article 13 - The General Assembly shall adopt decisions by a simple majority of the persons present or represented, that is to say when there are more votes in favour than against; in the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. The following decisions shall nevertheless require an absolute majority (50%+1) of those present or represented:
- a) The dissolution of the Association;
 - b) Amendment of the Statutes;
 - c) The disposal or transfer of goods;
 - d) The remuneration of the members of the representative body.

The decisions adopted in accordance with the provisions above shall be binding on all members, including those not in attendance and those who voted against.

Article 14 - The members may give a proxy to any other member to represent them at General Assemblies. The proxy shall be given in writing, and must reach the Secretary of the Assembly at least 24 hours before the session is held. Members who do not reside in the town in which the Association has its registered office may send the proxy document by post.

A vote in writing without a meeting shall be admissible only when no member opposes that procedure.

THE BOARD

Article 15 - The Board shall be the representative body responsible for the direction and day-to-day management of the Association, representing its interests in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly and subject to its supervision and control. Only members may be part of the representative body.

The Board shall comprise:

- A President
- A Secretary
- A Treasurer
- The Secretary may fulfil the duties of treasurer
- A Vice-President
- Board members.

The Board shall comprise a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members.

Article 16 - The Board must meet at least twice a year; there shall be one face-to-face meeting in the first quarter one on-line meeting in the second half of the year; further meetings shall take place as and when the proper conduct of the Association's activities so requires.

Other bodies taking part in the Association's activities may attend meetings of the Board at the invitation of the President; they may speak but may not vote.

- Article 17 - Members of the Board who fail to attend three consecutive meetings or five non-consecutive meetings without just cause shall be dismissed from their posts.
- Article 18 - The members of the Board shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years; unless expressly removed; they may be re-elected.
- Article 19 - In order to belong to the Board, the representatives of legal persons must meet the following indispensable requirements:
- They must be of age, must enjoy their full rights as citizens and must not be the subject of any of the grounds of incompatibility laid down in the legislation in force.
 - They must be appointed as prescribed in these Statutes.
 - They must be representatives of the legal person which is a member of the Association.
- Efforts shall be made to increase the number of women and young people on the Board in compliance with Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March 2007 on effective equality between women and men.
- Article 20 - Members of the Board, once appointed by the General Assembly, shall take office at the point at which they are accepted or take up the post.
- The General Assembly may establish the allowances and expenses to be paid to the members of the Board, where appropriate.
- The posts shall be unpaid.
- Article 21 - The members of the Board shall leave their posts in the following cases:
- a) When their term of office expires;
 - b) When they resign;
 - c) When they cease to fulfil the conditions of membership or become unable to carry out their functions;
 - d) When they are dismissed by the General Assembly in application of the provisions of Article 18 of these Statutes;
 - e) When the legal person they represent is dissolved.

When members cease to hold office for the reason set out in subparagraph a), they shall continue to operate as members of the Board until the next General Assembly, at which the new members will be elected.

In cases b), c), d) and e), the Board shall fill the vacancy by provisional appointment, which shall be submitted to the General Assembly for ratification or revocation; should the General Assembly revoke the provisional appointment, it shall make a new appointment.

All changes in the composition of the Board shall be notified to the Registry of Associations.

Article 22 -

The functions of the Board shall be as follows:

- a) To direct the ordinary management of the Association, in accordance with the guidelines of the General Assembly and under its control;
- b) To plan the activities to be carried out by the Association;
- c) To organize and carry out the activities approved by the General Assembly;
- d) To submit the annual income and expenditure budget and the statement of accounts of the previous year to the General Assembly for approval;
- e) To draw up the Agenda for the meetings of the General Assembly and to convene ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies;
- f) To handle proposals and suggestions formulated by the members, adopting the necessary measures for that purpose;
- g) To interpret the provisions of these Statutes and the Rules of Procedure and to fill any gaps in them, while ensuring that the legal regulations in force regarding associations are complied with.
- h) To set up such committees or working parties as it considers necessary to carry out the activities of the Association, coordinating their work and having them chaired by a member of the Board;
- i) To decide on the admission of new members;
- j) To exercise those powers delegated to it by the General Assembly by express decision, provided that such powers are not the exclusive remit of the General Assembly;

Article 23 - The Board shall meet in ordinary session twice (2) a year. It may also meet in extraordinary session as often as determined by the Presidency, either on her/his own initiative or at the request of a majority of its members (50%+1).

The Board shall be convened by the President at at least three days' notice and shall be chaired by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President; in the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the meeting shall be chaired by the oldest member of the Board.

In order to be valid, the Board's decisions must be adopted by a majority of the votes of those present, the quorum required being half of the members. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

Members of the Board can be represented in their absence by other members of the Board. The proxy shall be in writing and shall apply to one specified meeting of the Board.

The Secretary shall take the minutes of the sessions and shall enter them in the Minute Book.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT

Article 24 - The President of the Association shall be its legal representative and shall execute the decisions adopted by the Board and the General Assembly, both of which (s)he shall chair.

Article 25 - The President shall exercise the following powers:

- a) Convene and adjourn the meetings of the Board and the General Assembly, direct their deliberations, and exercise the casting vote in the event of a tied vote;
- b) Propose the Association's plan of activities to the Board, driving and directing its tasks;
- c) Authorise validly agreed payments;
- d) Resolve matters of an urgent nature that may arise and inform the Board at its next meeting;
- e) Exercise those powers delegated by the General Assembly by express decision, provided that such powers are not the exclusive remit of the General Assembly;
- f) Endorse the certifications issued by the Secretary;

- g) Exercise the powers of representation, direction and management of the Association expressly delegated either by the Board or by the General Assembly;
- h) Implement the decisions adopted by the General Assembly and/or the Board;
- i) Permit non-members to attend meetings by invitation;
- j) Ensure that the aims of the Association are met.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Article 26 - The Vice-President's function shall be to assist the President and take his/her place when he/she is not available.

The Vice-President shall also exercise any functions expressly delegated by the Presidency.

SECRETARY

Article 27 - The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- a) Receiving and dealing with applications for membership;
- b) Maintaining the File of Members and the Registration Book
- c) Acting as secretary at meetings of the General Assembly and of the Board and taking the minutes of both;
- d) Entering minutes in the Minute Book and keeping it safe;
- e) Filing the Association's official documents;
- f) Issuing certificates and certifying the contents of the Association's record books and archives;
- g) Ensuring that mandatory communications on the appointment of Board and changes to the registered office are sent to the relevant authority;
- h) Drafting the programmes of activity and all the requisite documents;
- i) Ensuring compliance with the legal provisions in force regarding Associations.

TREASURER

Article 28 - The Treasurer shall:

- a) Safeguard the Association's funds;
- b) Keep the accounts;
- c) Notify income received and payments made;
- d) Compile the annual income and expenditure budget and the previous year's statement of

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Article 29 - Members of the Board shall have the duties appropriate to their function on the Board (direction and ordinary management of the Association) and any duties assigned to them by the Board.

OTHER BODIES

SECRETARIAT

Article 30 - The Secretariat shall be the body to which the Board may delegate the duties and the powers ensuing by law.

It shall have a Director appointed by the Board. Having consulted the President, the Director shall form a team to achieve the purposes of the Association.

CHAPTER THREE

MEMBERS: REQUIREMENTS , PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION AND TYPES

Article 31 - Natural or legal persons who so request and who meet the following conditions may become members of the Association:
a) They must produce an express decision by the relevant body in their own institution stating its desire to join the Association and identifying the person or persons representing it, who must be of age or be emancipated minors, must not be subject to any legal constraints on the exercise of their rights and must not have had their capacity restricted by a court ruling which has the force of "res judicata".

Article 32 - Those who wish to join the Association shall make a request in writing to the President, endorsed by three (3) members; the President shall inform the Board, which shall decide whether or not to admit the new member and shall inform the General Assembly of its decision. Applicants may appeal the Board's decision to the General Assembly.

Endorsement by three (3) members shall not be necessary when the application has been seconded by a member of the Board.

Article 33 - Members admitted to the Association shall fall into one of the following categories:
1) Members: Legal persons
2) Members with the status of patrons: Legal persons. This category shall comprise those members whose main purpose is to provide financial support for the Association. Such bodies shall enjoy the legal status of members and shall have the same rights as members.
3) Honorary members: Natural persons. The Association may grant the status of honorary member on the basis of the person's attributes, merits and circumstances provided that the person meets the requirements for membership of the Association.

The Association may also grant the status of honorary member to those natural persons who cannot be members of the Association but who have undertaken or are undertaking activities relevant to the Association's objective

Such members' status shall be purely honorific and shall not confer on them the legal status of member. They shall nevertheless be entitled to attend meetings of the Association's Assemblies with the right to speak but without the right to vote; they shall also have the right to submit complaints and suggestions in writing regarding the Association and its activities to the governing bodies .

Article 34 - The annual membership fees together with the form of payment and the due date shall be determined by the Board to which the General Assembly shall delegate the power by express decision. Honorary members shall not be required to pay any membership fee, unless otherwise agreed by the competent body.

Article 35 - Membership shall not be transferable.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- Article 36 - All members shall have the following rights:
- 1) The right to challenge decisions and actions contrary to the Law on Associations or to these Statutes, within a period of forty calendar days from the day on which the claimant became aware, or had the opportunity to become aware, of the contents of the decision challenged;
 - 2) The right to be notified of the composition of the Association's governing and representative bodies, of its statement of accounts and of the progress of its activity;
 - 3) The right to check the identity of all other members of the Association at any time, through access to the register of members, and to consult the statement of income and expenditure and the progress of the Association's activity, with due regard for the regulations on personal data protection;
 - 4) The right to receive notice of General Assemblies, to attend them and to speak and vote at them, including the right to give a proxy to other members;
 - 5) In accordance with these Statutes, the right to vote on the composition of the Association's governing bodies and to stand for election to them;
 - 6) The right to appear in the register of members provided for in the legislation in force, and to make use of the Association's emblem, where appropriate;
 - 7) The right to have a copy of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure, if any, and to submit requests and complaints to the governing bodies;
 - 8) The right to participate in the Association's activities and collective events, and to enjoy the amenities intended for common use by the members (meeting areas, libraries, etc.);

9) The right to make a written submission prior to the adoption of disciplinary measures and to be informed of the grounds for such measures, which can only be based on non-compliance with their duties as members;

10) The right to enjoy all the rights and benefits accruing to a member of the Association in accordance with its rules and provisions and such other rights and benefits as may be granted by private or public bodies;

11) The right to withdraw at any time, without detriment to the completion of any commitments outstanding.

Article 37 -

Members shall have the following duties:

- 1) To share the purposes of the Association and collaborate in achieving them;
- 2) To pay the fees, calls for funds and other contributions which may be charged to members in accordance with the Statutes;
- 3) To fulfil all other obligations imposed by the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure and the decisions of the governing bodies;
- 4) To observe and comply with decisions validly adopted by the governing bodies of the Association.

LOSS OF THE STATUS OF MEMBER

Article 38 -

Membership shall cease in the following cases:

- 1) When the relevant legal person is dissolved;
- 2) When a member resigns of his/her own accord. The request to withdraw must be presented in writing with acknowledgement of receipt and shall come into effect on reception.
- 3) When a member is deprived of membership as a sanction imposed by the Board in the event of serious, repeated and deliberate non-compliance with the duties arising out of these Statutes or out of decisions validly adopted by the General Assembly or the Board;
- 4) When a member fails to pay contributions due;
- 5) When a member no longer fulfils the requirements for membership.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Article 39 - Members may be disciplined by the Board for repeatedly infringing the Statutes, or the decisions of the General Assembly or of the Board.

The sanctions may range from the suspension of rights for a period of 15 days to one month to the withdrawal of membership, under the terms set out in the following articles.

For these purposes, the Presidency may decide to open an investigation in order to clarify the conduct that may be punishable. Proceedings shall be conducted by the Secretary, as the investigating officer who shall propose the appropriate measures to the Board.

The imposition of sanctions shall be the responsibility of the Board, without the participation of the Secretary (because of having acted as the investigating officer), and the Board must hear the person concerned beforehand. The decision taken must state the grounds and may be appealed before the General Assembly.

Article 40 - Where a member is considered to be liable to dismissal from the Association, owing to serious, repeated and deliberate non-compliance with the duties arising out of these Statutes or out of decisions validly adopted by the General Assembly or the Board, the Presidency may order the Secretary to institute preliminary proceedings in order to obtain the appropriate information, in the light of which the Presidency may close the case or may initiate disciplinary proceedings for withdrawal of membership.

Article 41 - If disciplinary proceedings for withdrawal of membership are initiated, the Secretary, after verifying the facts, shall notify the person concerned in writing, stating the charges being made; the person concerned may reply within fifteen days, setting out a defense; on expiry of that period, the matter shall in any event be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Board, which shall take the appropriate decision, without the vote of the Secretary who has acted as investigating officer.

The decision to withdraw membership shall be notified to the person concerned, informing him/her that he/she can appeal against it before the next Extraordinary General Assembly scheduled; if no such session is due within three months, one must be convened exclusively for this purpose. Meanwhile, the Board may suspend the accused's rights as a member and his/her membership of the Board, if applicable.

Where an appeal against a proposal to withdraw membership is made to the General Assembly, the Secretary shall draw up a summary of the case in order to enable the Board to report to the General Assembly on the written document presented by the person accused and duly inform it of the facts so that the Assembly can adopt the appropriate decision.

Article 42 - The decision to withdraw membership, setting out the grounds on which it is based, must be communicated to the person concerned; (s)he can exercise her/his right to appeal before the Courts if (s)he deems the decision contrary to the Law or to the Statutes.

Article 43 - When members announce their withdrawal from the Association, whether of their own accord or as a result of a sanction, they shall be required to comply with obligations outstanding, if any.

CHAPTER THREE

CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND BUDGETARY SYSTEM

- Article 44 - The social capital of the Association come to ONE THOUSAND EURO (1,000 euro) paid in by the founding members.
- Article 45 - The financial resources allocated by the Association for the development of its activities, shall be as follows:
- a) The periodical fees agreed;
 - b) Capital contributions;
 - c) The product of the social capital and rights relating to them, as well as grants, bequests, legacies and donations the Association may lawfully receive;
 - d) Allocations made by international organisations and public and private bodies;
 - e) The revenue which the Association obtains through lawful activities and services which the Board decides to carry out in full compliance with the statutory objectives;
 - f) Any other financial income received by the Association that is intended for the achievement of its objectives.

The administrative and financial year shall be the calendar year ending on 31 December each year.

The profits obtained by the Association from the conduct of economic activities, including the provision of services, must be used exclusively to further its aims; they cannot under any circumstances be shared out between the members or their spouses or persons with a similarly close relationship who live with them, or between their relatives, nor can they be transferred without charge to natural or legal persons for lucrative purposes.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE STATUTES AND AMENDMENTS TO THEM

- Article 46 - PURPOSE: The Statutes of the Association shall constitute its basic law or constitution and shall be binding on all members and on all the Association's bodies, including the Assembly.
- Article 47 - The approval, amendment and review of the Statutes shall require the agreement of an extraordinary General Assembly of members convened specifically for that purpose.
- Article 48 - The Board shall be responsible for drafting any amendments but may delegate the task to the Secretariat. Once the draft amendment has been drawn up, the President of the Board shall include it on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Board, which shall either approve it or refer it back for further consideration.
- If it approves the amendment, the Board shall include it on the Agenda for the next General Assembly scheduled, or shall convene one specifically for this purpose.
- Article 49 - Notice of the Assembly shall be accompanied by the text of the amendment to the Statutes, to enable the members to address any changes they deem appropriate to the Secretary; if such changes are received by the Secretary at least eight days before the meeting, they shall be put to the General Assembly.
- Changes can be formulated individually or collectively; they shall be submitted in writing and shall contain the alternative text proposed. After voting on any changes proposed, the General Assembly shall adopt a decision amending the Statutes, which may be invoked against third parties once it has been registered in the General Registry of Associations.
- Article 50 - PUBLICATION: A copy of the Statutes in force shall be available at all times to all parties wishing to consult them, both at the Association's registered office and on its website.

CHAPTER SIX

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION AND DISPOSAL OF THE SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Article 51 - The Association shall be dissolved in the following cases:
- 1) At the request of the members, expressed by an absolute majority of those present at an extraordinary General Assembly convened for the purpose;
 - 2) On expiry of the period set in the Statutes or following compliance with the condition set in them;
 - 3) By absorption into, or merger with, other associations;
 - 4) When the number of members falls below the minimum number legally required;
 - 5) By a court ruling imposing dissolution which has the force of "res judicata";
 - 6) When it has become impossible to achieve the Association's aims;
 - 7) On the grounds set out in Article 39 of the Civil Code.
- Article 52 - Dissolution shall trigger the process of liquidation; the Association shall nevertheless retain its legal personality until that process has been concluded.

Where the Association is being dissolved, the extraordinary General Assembly which took the decision to dissolve it shall appoint a Liquidating Committee comprising five members of the Board, which shall be responsible for the remaining social capital.

Once the Association's social obligations to the members and/or to third parties have been met, the remaining social capital, if any, shall be handed over to a non-profit organisation for non-profit purposes.

FINAL PROVISIONS

- ONE - The Board shall be the body competent to interpret the provisions of these Statutes and to fill any gaps in them, in full compliance with the legal regulations in force regarding Associations, and shall submit its proposals for approval to the next General Assembly scheduled.
- TWO - These Statutes may be amended through decisions validly adopted by the Board and the Extraordinary General Assembly within the framework of their respective powers and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter Five.
- THREE - The General Assembly may adopt Rules of Procedure which may expand on these Statutes but shall not, under any circumstances, alter their provisions.

FINAL PROVISIONS

ANNEX I: NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE SYSTEM

The new Statutes of the WRF, in its articles 33 and 34, eliminate any reference to the membership fee system prior to 2018; clarifies the types of members and calls for the creation of a new membership fee system.

Following these guidelines, the WRF Board approved, in October 2018, a new system, which enters into force in 2019.

The fees are defined below for each of the categories of WRF members:

MEMBERS:

The majority of the members fall into this category. These are entities from the five continents. All these organizations make, beyond their annual membership fee, a great contribution to the WRF. Considering the big differences within this group (in terms of size, budgets, etc.) the members have been classified into sub-categories, each with a different membership fee, according to their situation:

	Minimum Membership Fee* (€)
REGIONAL Farmers Organizations	1200
NATIONAL or SUB-NATIONAL Farmers Organizations	600
REGIONAL NGOs	1200
NATIONAL or SUB-NATIONAL NGOs	600
Agri-Cooperatives	1200
Research Centers	1200
Others	1200

*Please note that we refer to the minimum membership fee here. From this amount, there are various entities with which higher amounts have been negotiated.

Members can request an in kind payment of their membership fee. Concepts accepted for in kind payments are detailed below. The Secretariat will develop a report template to justify the in kind payment.

Every in kind payment will need to be approved by the Board.

MEMBERS WITH THE STATUS OF PATRONS:

WHO ARE THEY?

Legal persons. This category shall comprise those members whose main purpose is to provide financial support for the Association. Such members shall enjoy the legal status of members and shall have the same rights as the other members.

The membership fee in this category is a minimum of 1500 euros per year.

The payment in kind is not allowed.

HONORARY MEMBERS:

WHO ARE THEY?

Natural persons. The Association may grant the status of honorary member on the basis of the person's merits and circumstances.

The Association may also grant the status of honorary member to those natural persons who cannot be members of the Association but who have undertaken or are undertaking activities relevant to the Association's objective.

They shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Association's Assemblies with the right to speak but without the right to vote; they shall also have the right to submit complaints and suggestions in writing regarding the Association and its activities to the governing bodies.

As established by the Statutes in article 34, honorary members have no obligation to pay a fee. However, some of them do so voluntarily. This voluntary fee is established at 60 euros / year.

CONCEPTS UNDER WHICH THE IN-KIND PAYMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP FEE MAY BE FEASIBLE

The in kind payment of the membership fee will be feasible under the following concepts:

- Specific activities of the Decade of Family Farming or the Agri-COOPDS initiative (or other campaigns that the WRF could develop in the future), carried out by the member organization in its country or region. Some examples:
 - Lead or actively participate in the activities of a National Committee on Family Farming.
 - Activities specifically dedicated to give visibility to the Decade of Family Farming.
 - To systematize good experiences of Agri-Coops or to participate in the SDG auto-diagnosis for Coops in the Agri-COOPDS initiative.
- To economically contribute to the WRF Exchange Program or to the WRF members Strengthening Program.
- Travel, hotel and food expenses from a WRF member, in order to attend events organized by the WRF (such as Global Conferences, side events or others).
- To carry out, in a specific country or region, and after agreement with the Secretariat of the WRF, some of the tasks that the Secretariat usually carries out.
- Cover travel expenses, accommodation or food for a member of the WRF Secretariat at an event organized by the member in a specific country.



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