

Charter

Article 1 Name and legal status

The World Student Community for Sustainable Development, hereafter referred to as the WSC-SD, is an association under the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB, art. 60 ff) and is located in Zürich, Switzerland.

Article 2 Neutrality

The WSC-SD is a neutral, non-political and non-religious organization. The WSC-SD and its Member Student Communities shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, citizenship, sexual orientation or language.

Article 3 Objective

The mission of the WSC-SD and its Member SCs is to actively promote the incorporation of sustainability and sustainable development at every stage of education, research, business and public policy. Furthermore, the WSC-SD and its Member SCs promote and encourage the development of local SC that share the objective of the WSC-SD.

Article 4 No commercial interest

The WSC-SD has no commercial interest. Assets are used solely to target the objectives of the WSC-SD. The WSC-SD does not run a commercial business.

Article 5 Member SCs and Individual Members

1. The WSC-SD is open for membership and partnership to Student Communities devoted to the objective of the organization. Partner SCs have no voting rights in the WSC-SD.
2. As an exception, the Legislative Meeting can grant individual membership to individuals that contribute to the work of the WSC-SD but are not a member of a Member SC. Individual Members have no voting rights in the WSC-SD.
3. Member SCs and Partner SCs must abide by the Charter of the WSC-SD. The WSC-SD can set requirements for membership and partnership in the Charter or in a separate document. (see attached)
4. Requests for partnership shall be submitted to the Executive Board (see Article 6) of the WSC-SD. Together with the application, the applying group shall submit a report including an English translation of its Charter, a list of its members and information about the activities it plans to undertake in the near future.

5. Requests for partnership shall be submitted to the Executive Board (see Article 6) of the WSC-SD, which votes on the acceptance of the partner group within three weeks of receiving the application. Together with the application, the applying group shall submit a report including an English translation of its Charter, a list of its members and information about the activities it plans to undertake in the near future.
6. Membership is granted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislative Meeting (see Article 6) which is held at the annual meeting or from one of three additional voting periods which occur at even intervals between annual meetings. The voting period for a partner SC to become updated to a member SC, whether at the annual meeting or one of the other three voting periods, can only occur after one full year where the SC is reviewed for relevance, activity, and contributions to the WSCSD.
7. Any Member SC not complying with the Charter of the WSC-SD or not performing reasonable activities consistently shall forfeit its membership. After consideration of the relevant facts, the Executive Board may propose the expulsion of any Member SC. Expulsion shall only be valid upon a two-thirds majority decision of the Legislative Meeting. No Member SC shall be expelled except upon eight weeks' notice from the Executive Board by electronic mail, specifying the ground upon which expulsion is based.
8. Any Member SC may resign at any time by giving four weeks' notice, to be delivered in writing by registered mail to the Executive Board, which shall so inform the Legislative Meeting of Member SCs.
9. If an SC is expelled from the organization, it will have four weeks from the date of the vote to request a review of its case by the Executive Board.

Article 6 Bodies

The bodies of the WSC-SD are

- a) The Legislative Meeting;
- b) The Member Meeting;
- c) The Executive Board;
- d) The Advisory Board; and
- e) The External Auditor

Article 7 Legislative Meeting

1. The Legislative Meeting represents no less than two-thirds of the Member SCs of the WSC-SD. As such, it is the highest-ranking body in the WSC-SD.
2. Representatives of the Member SCs shall together constitute the Legislative Meeting of Member SCs of the WSC-SD.
3. The Legislative Meeting shall be held at the annual meeting of the WSC-SD.
4. The Legislative Meeting shall be convened in writing at least four weeks prior to the meeting. An agenda for the Legislative Meeting must be sent one week prior to the meeting.

5. Each Member SC has one vote at the Legislative Meeting. In general, Member SCs are represented by their Presidents. The Executive Board shall be notified in writing if a Member SC is to be represented by a person other than its President.
6. Decisions of the Legislative Meeting shall be taken by a simple majority vote of all Members represented.
7. The Legislative Meeting shall have the powers necessary to pursue the objectives of the WSC-SD, unless otherwise stated in this Charter. Powers include:
 - a) Election and expulsion of members of the Executive Board;
 - b) Election and expulsion of members of the Advisory Board;
 - c) Election of the External Auditor;
 - d) Admission and expulsion of Member SCs;
 - e) Acceptance of the annual financial statement and the annual report of the Executive Board;
 - f) Discharging the Executive Board;
 - g) Amending the Charter; and
 - h) Dissolution of the WSCSD.

Article 8 Member Meeting

1. When two-thirds of the Member SCs are represented in meetings outside the Legislative Meeting by delegates that have full power to act and to take decisions on behalf of their respective member group, this meeting is a Member Meeting.
2. The Member Meeting has the same powers as the Legislative Meeting (**Article 7**).
3. The rules and guidelines for voting at the Member Meeting are the same as the Legislative Meeting (**Article 7**).
4. The Executive Board, the Advisory Board or one-fifth of the Member SC have the right to request a Member Meeting at any time. Member SCs should be notified at least one week in advance of a Member Meeting. Any notification of a Member Meeting must include an agenda.
5. If a Member SC is unable to attend a Member Meeting, then all relevant correspondence (i.e., a vote or opinion) must be submitted before the Member Meeting.

Article 9 Executive Board

1. The WSCSD shall be administered by an Executive Board consisting of a President and two to eight Directors, all physical persons.
2. Members of the Executive Board shall be elected individually by a two-thirds majority vote of the WSCSD's Member SCs at the Legislative Meeting. Their term of office shall be one year.
3. Members of the Executive Board can be re-elected. Their term of office shall not be longer than four years (non-consecutive).

4. Within the Executive Board, each member shall have one vote. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board members present.
5. The Executive Board shall have full power of administration, subject to the prerogatives of the Legislative Meeting.
 - a) The president represents the WSCSD to the outside.
6. The Executive Board shall delegate the day-to-day management of the WSCSD to the President and the designated officers.
7. The Executive Board shall be responsible for
 - a) Planning and carrying out the WSCSD's activities;
 - b) Budgeting and securing funding;
 - c) Preparing the Legislative Meeting; and
 - d) Implementing the decisions taken by the Legislative Meeting.
8. The Executive Board will be discharged by the Legislative Meeting based on the submission of an annual report, a financial statement and the report of the External Auditor.
9. The Executive Board shall have full power in the decision of allocating up to a maximum amount of revenues upon a majority vote.

Article 10 Advisory Board

1. The Advisory Board shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve representatives from academia, business, politics, NGOs and other interest groups that actively and impartially support the WSCSD. At least one member of the Advisory Board should be a former member of a Member SC.
2. Members of the Advisory Board are elected for three years by the Legislative Meeting.
3. Members of the Advisory Board can be re-elected.
4. The Advisory Board supports the activities of the WSC-SD primarily by
 - a) Supporting the planning process for the overall strategy and specific activities of the WSC-SD;
 - b) Helping to establish contacts with key decision-makers; and
 - c) Supporting funding efforts.
5. The Advisory Board shall meet at least twice per year with the Executive Board. Meetings of the Advisory Board are convened by the Executive Board in writing at least three months prior to the meeting.

Article 11 External Auditor

The Legislative Meeting shall appoint a qualified person or company as External Auditor. The External Auditor shall submit his/her report to the next Legislative Meeting.

Article 12 Decisions via correspondence

Decisions in all bodies of the WSC-SD can be taken via correspondence (chat meeting, mail, electronic mail or telephone conference).

Article 13 Finances

1. The revenues of the WSC-SD shall consist of membership fees, donations and revenues from sponsorship, events and publications.
2. The usual annual fee per Member SC is CHF (Swiss Francs) 50.-, but is not applied unless the current Executive Board requires it through a majority vote.
3. Upon dissolution of the WSC-SD, the remaining assets shall be donated to a non-profit organization that works for the public interest and that is to be determined by the Legislative Meeting.
4. The WSC-SD's financial responsibility shall be limited to its assets. Member SCs shall not be liable.
5. Member SCs have no financial claims of any kind towards the WSC-SD.
6. The Executive board can allocate a maximum of 500 USD per planned expenditure, following a majority vote.

Article 14 Amendments to the Charter and dissolution of the WSC-SD

1. Any proposal regarding amendments to the Charter or the dissolution of the WSC-SD shall emanate from the Executive Board, two members of the Advisory Board or two Member SCs.
2. The Legislative Meeting can amend and revise this Charter or dissolve the WSC-SD with a two-thirds majority vote of all Member SCs.

Article 15 Reporting and financial year

The WSC-SD's reporting and financial year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31.

Article 16 Effective date

This document comes into force on May 9, 2008.