



# CONSTITUTION



## ART I

### PLATFORM

IOGT International is a worldwide community of non-governmental organisations gathering together people of all ages regardless of gender, colour, nationality, creed, social position or political persuasion. The aim of IOGT International, founded in 1851, is the liberation of peoples of the world leading to a richer, freer and more rewarding life. As a means of attaining this aim, IOGT International promotes a lifestyle free of alcohol and other drugs.

The work of IOGT International and its member organisations is built on the principles of universal fellowship and basic human and democratic rights. IOGT International believes that each individual is unique and has an infinite value. Everyone is entitled to personal freedom and is obliged to work for the improvement of the quality of life of all people. IOGT International seeks to promote democracy at all levels of society, which means that all citizens must have the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making processes and freely express their opinions.

IOGT International works for peace by promoting human development and dignity, democracy, tolerance, equality and justice. Furthermore, IOGT International advocates the peaceful settlement of conflicts between individuals and groups. Member organisations are encouraged to work towards peace among nations.

IOGT International recognises that alcohol and other drugs constitute a serious threat to the dignity and freedom of people and their societies. As a part of the solution to alcohol and drug problems, members of IOGT International choose to lead a life free from such substances.

IOGT International, furthermore, develops comprehensive programmes that include prevention, reduction of substance use, education, communication, training, public awareness, research, and the rehabilitation of users and those they affect.

## ART II

### PLEDGE

Each member shall accept the obligation to lead a life free from the use of alcohol and other non-medical use of dependence producing drugs and to promote public acceptance of this principle.

## ART III

### IOGT INTERNATIONAL

IOGT International comprises national organisations, institutions and in special cases individuals who accept and observe the conditions for membership. IOGT International may grant membership and has final jurisdiction as regards the membership of such organisations, in accordance with this Constitution. A member organisation is free to determine its own byelaws, as long as it observes the principles of the IOGT International Platform as set out herein and registers its constitution with IOGT International.

The supreme authority of the organisation is the IOGT International Congress, hereinafter called the Congress. Between sessions this authority is vested in the International Board elected by the Congress.

## ART IV

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in IOGT International is of three types:

1. Full Membership
2. Associate membership
3. Individual membership

Membership requires an annual fee to IOGT International as determined by the Congress.

#### 1. Full Membership

Full membership in IOGT International may be granted to any organisation based on individual members, or any institution, or any foundation, which endorses fully the IOGT International platform and requires its members to lead a life free from the use of alcohol and other intoxicating drugs. They shall have full voting rights in the Congress and their members are eligible to hold any office within IOGT International.

#### 2. Associate Membership

Associate membership may be granted to any organisation, institution, or foundation, which accepts the IOGT International platform but does not fulfil all requirements therein. They shall have no voting rights in the Congress.

#### 3. Individual Membership

Individuals normally affiliate to IOGT International through their recognised state or national level organisation. Where no such organisations exist, or due to special circumstances, individuals may seek direct membership of IOGT International. They should endorse fully the IOGT International platform and are required to lead a life free from the use of alcohol and other intoxicating drugs. They shall have no voting rights in the Congress but are eligible to hold any office within IOGT International.

#### 4. Admission to Membership

A two-thirds majority of votes cast at an ordinary Congress in session is required to admit any new member. Pro tempore membership, valid until the next Congress, may be granted by a majority vote of the International Board.

#### 5. Termination of Membership

Membership of IOGT International may be revoked / suspended by a two-thirds vote of the International Board if there is evidence of violation of membership conditions. Such a decision by the International Board is subject to approval by two-thirds majority at the following Congress, after which membership in IOGT International is finally terminated.

#### 6. Dissolution

If a member organisation ceases to exist, its byelaws not providing for the disposal of its property, all assets and properties shall be placed under the authority of the International Board. The International Board shall assume custody of the property and use it for the reconstruction of such organisation and to promote the ideas of IOGT International in the country concerned. If the organisation resumes its activities within ten years, the remainder of its property shall be returned. After ten years, the International Board is free to decide about the property, provided that the member organisation is still not active.

#### ART V

#### THE CONGRESS

## 1. The Congress

The Congress is the highest authority of IOGT International and shall meet every fourth year at an agreed time and venue.

## 2. Quorum of the Congress

At least half of the registered delegates must be present to form a quorum of the Congress.

## 3. Convening of the Congress

The Congress shall be convened by notice given to its membership by the International Board. Any such notice shall be in writing and shall include the time and place of the Congress, a draft agenda and the number of delegates each organisation is entitled to send.

Such notice shall be given not later than six months prior to the date of the Congress.

The agenda and the documents for the Congress shall be sent two months prior to the opening of the Congress.

## 4. Extraordinary Congress

An extraordinary Congress shall be convened when at least five of the International Board members or at least one third of members with full membership have requested this in writing.

In the event of an extraordinary Congress, at least three months written notice shall be given to the membership, together with an agenda listing the matters to be discussed. No other business shall be transacted.

## 5. Representation

The Congress shall be a representative body consisting of delegates. Each member shall be entitled to send delegates to the Congress according to the following schedule:

Up to 500 members	1 delegate
501 - 5,000 members	2 delegates
5,001 - 10,000 members	3 delegates
10,001 - 15,000 members	4 delegates
15,001 - 20,000 members	5 delegates
20,001 - 25,000 members	6 delegates
25,001 - 30,000 members	7 delegates
30,001 - 35,000 members	8 delegates
35,001 - 40,000 members	9 delegates
40,001 - 45,000 members	10 delegates
45,001 - 50,000 members	11 delegates
50,001 and more members	12 delegates

No organisation shall be entitled to send more than 12 delegates. Institutions and Foundations with full membership shall be entitled to only one delegate. The basis of representation is the individual membership as of 31st December of the year prior to the Congress, in accordance with the annual report submitted by the organisation.

Each associate member organisation is entitled to one delegate in the Congress. Delegates from the associated member organisations may participate in discussions, make proposals and present candidates for the elections, but have no right to vote.

All members are permitted to attend the proceedings of the Congress and any member may speak by special permission of the presiding officer. Only delegates and members of the International Board are entitled to make proposals.

The names of Congress delegates elected by member organisations shall be submitted in order of preference to the International Office not later than one month prior to the opening of the Congress. In the event of names not being submitted and no satisfactory explanation given to the Congress, the organisation concerned may, by decision of the Congress, lose its right to vote.

## 6. Voting Procedures

A simple majority of the votes cast is required for decisions to be binding on the Congress, except where a two-thirds majority of the vote is required by the Constitution. Abstentions or invalid votes are not counted. In case of a tie vote, the President shall have a casting vote. In cases where the President does not exercise the casting vote, the matter shall be decided by drawing lots. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot if one or more of the delegates request it.

On votes taken by a show of hands, delegates shall have one vote, which is non-transferable. When votes are taken by ballot, a delegate may cast the accumulated vote of his or her organisation or country.

Voting by proxy is permitted if there is no representative from an organisation and the organisation has given a written mandate to a representative from another organisation from the same country. In cases of proxy voting, a delegate may hold up to twelve votes. All proxy votes must be approved by the Credentials Committee. Members of the International Board may vote on all questions except those dealing with their own report and in elections.

## 7. Congress Agenda

The agenda shall include the following items:

- a. Opening
- b. Attendance
- c. Approval of the convening of the Congress
- d. Approval of the agenda
- e. Election of sessional officers
- f. Admission of new member organisations
- g. Election of congressional committees
- h. Reports from the International Board
- i. Financial reports and auditors' report
- j. Reports from Regional Committees
- k. Motions
- l. Plan of Action
- m. Membership fees
- n. Officers allowances
- o. Budgets
- p. Statements from the Congress
- q. Election of officers and auditors
- r. Time and venue for the next Congress
- s. Closing

The Congress may delegate the items on the agenda to sessional commissions on a proposal from the International Board.

Motions or other items for consideration by the Congress shall be submitted to the International Office not later than three months prior to the opening of the Congress.

After an ordinary or extraordinary Congress, the International Board shall publish the journal of proceedings and provide member organisations, regional councils and officers with a copy.

To be elected an officer of the International Board the candidate must have received

a majority of all the votes cast, unless there is only one nominee for an office, in which case the presiding officer, after asking if there are any further nominations, shall declare the nominee elected to the office. The nominations for each officer shall immediately be followed by election before nominations for the next office are taken.

### 8. Nominations Committee

The Congress shall appoint a Nominations Committee of four members and shall hold office until the next Congress. This committee shall organise the process of nominations and election to the International Board.

### 9. International Board

The Congress shall elect to the International Board one International President (IP), one International Vice President (IVP) and up to seven Board members. The International Board appoints from its membership an Administrative Committee.

Members of the Board who are not members of the AC shall be entitled to vote on the decisions of the administrative committee. Votes are valid if they are received by the International Office within one month of the notice of the poll posted by the International Office. No decision is valid without a simple majority of the votes cast.

### 10. Auditors

The Congress shall elect two members as auditors to audit the accounts of IOGT International. The auditors shall examine the accounts and other financial records, the assets of the organisation and ensure that the budgets and other instructions of the Congress are observed. The auditors shall report to the next ordinary Congress. The auditing of accounts may be delegated to a firm of auditors by special decision of the Congress.

## ART VI

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, LEGAL DOMICILE AND LEGAL COMMITMENT

The International Board shall appoint an Executive Director who is responsible for daily business.

The International Board shall set up an International Office in a place it deems to be appropriate.

The legal domicile of IOGT International shall be the place where the International Office is situated. IOGT International is legally committed by the joint signatures of the International President and the Executive Director.

The International Board has the right, after consulting the Nominations Committee, to appoint officers and members to fill vacancies on the Board caused by death, resignation or removal.

## ART VII

### REGIONAL COMMITTEES

National organisations are encouraged to set up Regional Committees to facilitate an effective network among affiliates in their region; to encourage mutual support by exchanging information, organising workshops and initiating joint projects. Regional committees are required to find their own financial support.

The Regional Committee links the International Board and the national organisations in the area and co-ordinates work in the region and reports to the Congress.

## ART VIII

### CEREMONIAL WORK

Some member organisations are working in the tradition of the Good Templar Order. Rules concerning the ceremonial work, badges and degrees shall be stated in a code of rules accepted by the member organisations working according to the Good Templar tradition ceremonial work.

## ART IX

### LOGOTYPE

The official logotype shall be decided upon by the Congress.

## ART X

### ECONOMY

The fiscal year shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st. The International Board shall make a full report of receipts and expenditures, including a balance sheet, for each fiscal year and present it to the next ordinary Congress together with each regular Congress shall decide upon a budget for the coming period until the next ordinary Congress.

At intervals, not exceeding 12 months, the accounts of the Organisation shall be audited by the auditors elected by the last Congress or a legally registered auditing firm appointed according to decision of the Congress.

## ART XI

### REPORTS

Annual reports shall be made by each of the member organisations to the International Office in accordance with a form issued by the International Board before 1st May the following year.

## ART XII

### AMENDMENTS

This Constitution shall not be altered except on a proposal made in writing by the International Board or a full member. Any proposed amendment shall be sent to the International Board through the International Office six months prior to the opening of the next ordinary Congress. The International Board shall communicate any such amendment to all member organisations at least four months before the date of the Congress. Two-thirds majority of the delegates attending and voting is required for adoption of an amendment. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution may be at an ordinary or an extraordinary meeting of the Congress.

Adopted by the 66th Session of the World Congress at Basel, Switzerland, 4 August 2006

  
Sven-Olov Carlsson  
International President

  
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Executive Director