



# IFES CONSTITUTION

As revised by General Committee, July 2015

Union Internationale des Groupes Bibliques Universitaires	International Fellowship of Evangelical Students
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This constitution was amended by the 10<sup>th</sup> General Committee (Hurdal Verk, Norway 1979), the 14<sup>th</sup> General Committee (Nairobi, Kenya 1995), the 17<sup>th</sup> General Committee (Ancaster, Canada 2007) and the 19<sup>th</sup> General Committee (Oaxtepec, Mexico 2015)

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## CLAUSE ONE - DEFINITIONS

<b>IFES</b>	International Fellowship of Evangelical Students
<b>Student</b>	IFES affirms ministry to high school students. However, at the basis of our international fellowship is our mission to students in universities and colleges of higher education and this is how 'student' should be understood in this Constitution.
<b>National Movement</b>	A union of Christian student groups from an entire nation. In this Constitution, 'National Movement' shall be understood as those organisations affiliated as members of IFES.
<b>General Committee</b>	The committee representing National Movements which is the supreme and legislative body of IFES. The General Committee normally meets every four years.
<b>Board</b>	The governing body of IFES, elected by the General Committee, responsible for the governance of IFES as set out in clause Four (C). This group was formerly known as the International Executive Committee.
<b>Region</b>	For the purposes of effective ministry and governance IFES groups countries into 'regions'.

## CLAUSE TWO - GENERAL PROVISIONS

### A. NAME AND REGISTRATION

The name of the association is International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

The International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) was first constituted on 26 May 1947.

IFES is an association registered in the commercial register in Switzerland as *l'Union Internationale des Groupes Bibliques Universitaires* in accordance with article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.

### B. OBJECTIVES

To create, maintain and develop an international fellowship of National Movements with the objectives of:

1. Seeking to awaken and deepen personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to further evangelistic work among students throughout the world.
2. Strengthening National Movements and providing for fellowship on a worldwide and regional basis.
3. Arranging at regular intervals regional and international conferences.

### **C. DOCTRINAL BASIS**

The doctrinal basis of IFES shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, including:

1. The unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
2. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
3. The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture, as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of all people since the fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. Redemption from the guilt, penalty, dominion and pollution of sin, solely through the sacrificial death (as our representative and substitute) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.
6. The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of God the Father.
7. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.
8. The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone.
9. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
10. The one Holy Universal Church which is the Body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.
11. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **D. CHURCH ORDER**

IFES is not committed to any particular form of church order: it is interdenominational.

## **CLAUSE THREE - MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. National Movements shall be autonomous entities.
2. Nothing contained in this Constitution shall give any power to IFES to in any way control the activities of the National Movements.
3. As a member of IFES each National Movement shares a commitment to working together towards the Objectives set out in Clause Two (B).
4. National Movements shall have a doctrinal basis which is equivalent to the doctrinal basis of IFES set out in Clause Two (C).
5. A National Movement shall appoint up to three delegates to represent it at meetings of the General Committee, as set out in Clause Four (B) 5.

6. National Movements which are already members of any other international student religious organisation which does not have an equivalent doctrinal basis shall not be eligible for membership of IFES.
7. IFES encourages student participation in the decision making of national movements.

## **B. AFFILIATION**

1. Application by a National Movement for admission to membership of IFES shall be made to the Board which may accept such application, subject to confirmation by the General Committee.
2. In view of the importance of preserving the interdenominational character and unity of IFES, where more than one student movement applies for membership from any country then this may exceptionally be granted. Each of these movements must subscribe to the Objectives and doctrinal basis of IFES. The Board will ensure fair representation on the General Committee for all National Movements considering elements of unity, communication and belonging.
3. IFES normally affiliates only one member organisation from any country. Where affiliation of more than one National Movement in a country has already occurred, these affiliations will stand. If political boundaries change so that more than one affiliated National Movement exists within a country, then those affiliations shall stand.
4. Where more than one affiliated National Movement exists within a country these movements shall be represented jointly on the General Committee by three delegates appointed by a joint national contact committee which shall adequately represent each movement.
5. The General Committee shall have power at its discretion to affiliate a regional association of student movements covering more than one country as if it were a National Movement.

## **C. SUSPENSION, DISAFFILIATION, RESIGNATION**

1. **Suspension**  
The Board may temporarily suspend any National Movement which changes its doctrinal basis in a way that it is no longer consistent with that of IFES or if it brings IFES into disrepute. The National Movement will have six months to respond to and appeal the suspension after which the Board will review the suspension. As a result of the review the Board may discontinue the suspension or may continue it until the next General Committee where they may recommend disaffiliation.
2. **Disaffiliation**  
In the case of the Board recommending disaffiliation of a National Movement this recommendation must be made no less than 90 days before a meeting of the General Committee, during which time the National Movement will be temporarily suspended from membership. The General Committee will at its meeting vote on whether or not to disaffiliate the National Movement in question.
3. **Resignation**  
Any National Movement may withdraw from membership of IFES on tendering its resignation in writing to the General Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect six months after the date of notification.

## CLAUSE FOUR - ORGANISATION

### A. BODIES

1. IFES consists of affiliated National Movements which act through the General Committee and elected Board.
2. The General Committee is the supreme and legislative body of IFES.
3. The Board is responsible for the day-to-day activities of IFES.

### B. GENERAL COMMITTEE

1. The General Committee shall meet at least once in every four-year period.
2. The Secretary of the Board shall be responsible for calling meetings of the General Committee at the instruction of the Board. At least 60 days' notice shall be given to all members before any General Committee meeting.
3. One-quarter of the total membership of the General Committee shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the General Committee. A quorum must be present for votes to be taken.
4. Each National Movement shall be permitted to appoint up to three delegates to represent it at meetings of the General Committee. There shall be student participation in the management and direction of IFES and, accordingly, due provision shall be made for students or recently graduated leaders to be included in the national delegations. The Secretary of the Board shall be notified of all such appointments not less than twenty-eight days before the General Committee meeting and shall send the agenda to the appointed delegates.
5. There shall be a system of proportional voting in the General Committee. Each National Movement shall be entitled to vote as follows:
  - a. Up to and including 500 student members - 1 vote
  - b. Up to and including 1,000 student members - 2 votes
  - c. More than 1,000 student members - 3 votes

The voting shall be by delegations exercising a block vote, and proxy voting shall not be permitted.

6. The Chair of the Board shall preside over business meetings of the General Committee. In the Chair's absence, a Vice-Chair shall preside.
7. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the members of the General Committee. Such a meeting shall be called upon a written request to the Secretary of the Board signed by at least two-thirds of IFES member movements. Following the receipt of such a request the Secretary must take steps to arrange a meeting within 90 days and take measures to notify all members of the time and place of the Extraordinary General Meeting. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall follow all the procedures of the General Committee described in Clause Four (B) above.

### C. GOVERNANCE

1. The General Committee shall elect the Board to govern the affairs of IFES and ensure it fulfils its objectives as set out in Clause Two (B).
2. The Board shall be composed of a Chair, Treasurer and 13 other voting members, including student representation, together with a General Secretary who shall ex officio be a non-voting member.
3. The nominations and election process for the Board will be as follows:
  - a. All National Movements will be invited to nominate a person to serve as a board member to represent their region or to approve a second term of service by an existing board member. A nominating committee composed of retiring board members will lead the process. The nominating committee will propose board members from the nominations received. All nominees must have the approval of the country concerned.
  - b. Details of the nominees will be sent to all members of the General Committee at least 60 days before the General Committee meeting.
  - c. Unless representation is made at least 30 days before the General Committee this provisional list will be brought to the full General Committee for a single vote with appointments to be made by simple majority.
4. Elected Board members shall hold office until the following General Committee meeting, but shall then be eligible for re-election.
5. The Board shall elect one or more Vice-Chairs from within the members of Board.
6. The General Secretary shall act as secretary of the Board.
7. All members of the Board shall confirm their agreement with the IFES doctrinal basis by signing a copy of it.
8. One-third of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at Board meetings.
9. The Board may, subject to confirmation by the General Committee, appoint a General Secretary for IFES and set out the terms of their appointment and duties.
10. The Board shall meet at least once each year.
11. In the event of vacancies arising within the Board, the Board may appoint persons to fill such vacancies. Any person so appointed shall hold office only until the next meeting of the General Committee at which they shall be eligible for election to the Board.
12. Relations with other religious organisations: The General Committee and the Board may arrange joint activities in the name of IFES only with those religious organisations whose basis of faith and purposes are equivalent to those of IFES.



#### **D. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS**

1. The Honorary President shall be elected by the General Committee and shall hold office until the next meeting of the General Committee.
2. The Board shall be empowered to appoint Honorary Vice-Presidents subject to confirmation by the General Committee. Honorary Vice-Presidents shall hold office until the next meeting of the General Committee and shall be available for such assistance in the ministry of IFES as they are able to give. When possible they shall be present at meetings of the General Committee.
3. The Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents shall not be eligible to hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

### **CLAUSE FIVE - FINANCE**

- A. The Board shall annually adopt a budget of estimated income and expenditure.
- B. The IFES General Secretary shall submit the annual budget to the National Movements, which shall contribute to this budget as they are able.

### **CLAUSE SIX - FINAL PROVISIONS**

No alteration to this Constitution shall be made except by a three-quarter majority decision at a meeting of the General Committee. Each National Movement which is in full voting membership shall be given 90 days' notice of every proposed amendment and no change shall be made to Clause Two (C) or Clause Four (C) 7) without the unanimous agreement of all members of the General Committee.