

Statutes of  
International Movement of  
Youth with Disabilities  
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## **Preamble**

The International Movement of Youth with Disabilities (IMYD) adheres to the values enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 and effective in 2008, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948.

## **Article 1: Constitution**

An association created under French law governed by the law of July 1st, 1901, and the decree of August 16th, 1901, named "International Movement of Youth with Disabilities", abbreviated as IMYD, hereinafter referred to as "Organization", is established among the adherents to these statutes.

## **Article 2: Purpose**

The "International Movement of Youth with Disabilities" is an international, non-profit movement with no partisan or religious affiliation, composed of young people with disabilities aged 18 to 35, representative organizations of young people with disabilities at regional or national levels, and allied members.

Its missions are:

- To ensure international cooperation for young people with disabilities empowerment, particularly through exchanging and sharing information, experiences, training programs, and best practices (Article 32 of the CRPD).
- To represent the international youth with disabilities in all relevant forums (Article 29 of the CRPD).

## **Article 3: Duration**

The duration of the Organization is unlimited.

## **Article 4: Headquarters**

The headquarters is located in Paris and may be transferred by a simple decision of the Board of Directors.

## **Article 5: Members**

The Organization is composed of declared organizations with legal personalities and individuals divided into three categories:

- Young people with disabilities.
- Representative organizations of young people with disabilities.
- Allies.

Members commit to participate in the meetings of the bodies of which they are part of, in accordance with the attendance provisions provided for in these statutes or in the rules of procedure.

### **Young People with Disabilities**

Any person with a disability aged 18 to 35 is considered as a young person with a disability.

### **Representative Organizations of Young People with Disabilities**

An organization is considered a representative organization of young people with disabilities if its statutes align with the values of our Organization and it represents young people with disabilities at regional or national levels. A representative organization is led, managed, and governed by young people with disabilities, and its members are predominantly young people with disabilities (General Observation No. 7 CRPD). Organizations must designate a gender-balanced duo, except in justified cases validated by the Board of Directors.

### **Ally**

An ally is any individual or entity contributing to the Organization's purpose by providing active financial or moral support. Allies obtain this status through a favorable vote of the Board of Directors. They have a consultative voice and cannot hold elective office.

### **Honorary Member**

Any individual can obtain the symbolic status of an honorary member of the Organization if they have provided significant services for achieving the Organization's objectives.

Honorary members are appointed by the Board of Directors for a renewable term of three years.

## **Article 6: Regional Groups**

Members of the Organization are divided according to the United Nations regional groups: Africa Group; Asia and the Pacific Group; Eastern Europe Group; Latin America and the Caribbean Group; Western Europe and Others Group.

Members choose their reference country based on:

- Their nationality.
- Their country of residence, subject to at least 2 years of domiciliation.

The choice of reference country can be modified upon request of the concerned member, subject to validation by the Board of Directors.

## **Article 7: Membership**

Any individual or entity wishing to become a member of the Organization must adhere to the charter of values.

All members must respect these statutes and the internal regulations of the Organization.

To become effective, any new membership application must be validated by the Board of Directors.

Membership is valid for the calendar year.

## **Article 8: Termination of Membership**

Membership is lost by:

- Non-renewal of membership;
- Death or dissolution;
- Resignation addressed in writing to the Board of Directors;
- Exclusion for any harm caused to the Organization, as defined in the internal regulations.

## **Article 9: General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the body with the broadest powers and is solely competent to:

- Elect members of the Board of Directors;
- Monitor the management and decisions of the Board of Directors;
- Amend the statutes;
- Decide on the transformation or dissolution of the Organization.

### **Article 9.1: General Provisions**

#### **Composition**

The General Assembly is addressed to all members of the Organization.

#### **Convocation**

It is convened at least one month before the set date on the proposal of either:

- The Presidency.
- At least two-thirds of the Board of Directors members or provisional administrators.
- At least one-quarter of the members.

The convocation must include an agenda, and members can propose items or motions to be added up to two weeks before the General Assembly, held in hybrid mode (in-person and remote) or remotely. It can only deliberate on the questions on the agenda.

The person presiding over the Assembly can invite any relevant stakeholder whose presence seems pertinent.

### **Proxy**

A member may give their proxy to any other member, up to the limit of two proxies, in addition to its own vote.

### **Voting Procedures**

Unless otherwise stated in the statutes, votes are taken by the majority of those present and represented.

### **Minutes**

The minutes must be made available to members by the General Secretariat within one month following the General Assembly and must include the signatures of the Presidency and the Secretariat of the session.

## **Article 9.2: Ordinary General Assembly**

The Ordinary General Assembly (OGA) must be held at least once a year and must vote on:

- The moral report;
- The financial report;
- The approval of accounts and allocation of the result for the closed financial year;
- The renewal of Board of Directors members if necessary.

### **Board of Directors Renewal**

The complete renewal of the Board of Directors takes place every two years during the Ordinary General Assembly. Candidates must submit their applications to the General

Secretariat no later than two months before the Assembly. The Board of Directors will give an opinion on the applications.

### **Article 9.3: Extraordinary General Assembly**

The number of Extraordinary General Assemblies (EGAs) is limited to once per calendar year.

#### **Mandatory Convocation**

The Extraordinary General Assembly is mandatory for voting on:

- Statutory reforms;
- Merger or transformation;
- Dissolution of the Organization.

#### **Deliberation Procedures**

Adjustments or motions must obtain a qualified majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by present or represented members to be approved.

### **Article 10: Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is responsible for the political orientations and defining the activities of the Organization in accordance with its purpose.

#### **Article 10.1: Composition**

The Board of Directors is composed of 13 to 16 members, distributed as follows:

- 3 to 6 members elected by the General Assembly
- 10 members elected by the regional groups

The regional groups elect a gender-balanced pair from different reference countries.

Among the members elected by the General Assembly, the following positions must be filled:

- Presidency
- General Secretariat
- Treasury

Each director serves in a personal capacity, even if they represent their original Organization at the General Assembly.

## **Article 10.2: Resignation and Reorganization**

In the event of the resignation of a member elected by the General Assembly, the Board of Directors may elect their replacement until the next Ordinary General Assembly.

## **Article 10.3: Operation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors meets at least five times during its term.

### **Convocation**

The Board of Directors is convened at least two weeks before the set date, either by the Presidency or at least one-third of the directors.

### **Proxy**

A member may give their proxy to any other member limited to one proxy per director in addition to its own vote.

### **Voting Procedures**

Deliberations are taken by the majority of those present or represented unless otherwise stated in the statutes.

### **Minutes**

The meeting minutes must be made available to directors by the General Secretariat within one month.

## **Article 10.4: Provisional Administrator**

In case of a malfunction or need for structuring the Board of Directors, the General Assembly may appoint between 3 and 5 provisional administrators to handle current affairs.

Provisional administrators are appointed for a maximum duration of one year solely for an administrative role defined by the General Assembly.

## **Article 11: Internal Regulations**

Internal regulations are established and may be freely modified by the Board of Directors to set the Organization's procedures not specified in the statutes.



The modification of the internal regulations can only be adopted if two-thirds of the Board of Directors members are present or represented.

## **Article 12: Financial Resources**

The Organization's resources consist of any resources authorized by legislative and regulatory texts. Accounting is maintained sharing:

- A balance sheet;
- An income and outcome statement;
- And appendices.

Each year, it is justified to the relevant bodies and under specified conditions how the funds from all subsidies granted during the past year were used.

## **Article 13: Dissolution**

The dissolution or transformation of the Organization is voted on by an Extraordinary General Assembly specifically called to decide on this issue.

This Extraordinary General Assembly must include at least one-quarter of the Organization's members present or represented and up to date with their membership. In case of dissolution of the Organization, the Extraordinary General Assembly:

- Appoints one or more liquidators;
- Allocates any remaining net assets, if any, to an association with a similar social purpose and values without allocating anything to the Organization's members other than their contributions;
- Designates a member responsible for fulfilling the declaration and publicity formalities required by the laws and regulations in force in the country where the headquarters are located.

## Annexes

### Article 29 of CRPD<sup>1</sup>: Participation in political and public life

“States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to: [...]

b. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

ii. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs”

### Article 32 of CRPD<sup>2</sup> : International cooperation

“1 States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

- a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programs, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
- b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange, and sharing of information, experiences, training programs and best practices.”

### General Observation number 7 of the CRPD<sup>3</sup>

“14. Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs): those that are governed, led, and directed by persons with disabilities, are comprised by a majority of persons with disabilities themselves, and thus are representative of persons with disabilities.”

### Regional groups of Member States

The United Nations Regional Groups are the geopolitical regional groups of the United Nations Member States. There are 5 of them:

- African States.
- Asia-Pacific States.
- Eastern European States.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no7-article-43-and-333-participation>

- Latin American and Caribbean States.
- Western European and other States.

The distribution of Member States by regional group is indicated on the United Nations website at the following link: [Regional Groups of Member States Represented at the United Nations.](#)