



*FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES*

*INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN OF LEGAL CAREERS*

# ***STATUTES***

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### Article 1 – Name

It is founded under the name of **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN IN LEGAL CAREERS**, an international non-governmental organisation.

### Article 2 - Aim

In exercising its activities the Federation inspires itself of the principles inscribed in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies that have for their objective the elimination of all forms of discrimination, without any distinction , and promote the equality of rights between men and women.

Consequently the Federation will undertake::

- a) to disseminate among its members and in their professional, social and family milieu the knowledge of these said principles
- b) to encourage, and help its members in their actions before the Parliaments, Governments and other competent authorities, and also public opinion, in order that national legislation conforms or becomes so with the above principles and is really applied in judicial and social practice

### Article 3 – Objective

The Federation undertakes, excluding all preoccupations of a political, religious, or racial nature:

- a) to establish relationships and exchanges between women of all countries who are

*active in juridical careers or have been active in such careers and have a law degree or its equivalent in their country.*

*b) to unite their efforts so that all careers become accessible to women without any discrimination as to gender, access, or promotion, and to ensure that all women can have, like men, access to a juridical education and can work in a specialty of their choice*

*c) to compile all information on the juridical, economic, and social condition of women around the world, their status and their professional lives and to largely diffuse this information among the members.*

*d) to favorise the formation of friendships and solidarity among all the members as well as with other feminine international associations and other associations of jurists*

*e) to study Law, especially international law from the view point in which it influences the status of women.*

*f) to promote the respect and defence of the environment.*

*g) to work for the promotion and defence of human rights*

*h) to contribute to the idea of world peace as the indispensable basis for the achievement of an equitable and conscious progress for all humanity.*

## *Chapter II*

### *Headquarters, Languages, and Logo*

#### *Article 4 - Headquarters*

*The Headquarters of the Federation will be at the place of residence of the current President, she will take care of all the legal formalities due to a change of site of the headquarters into her country.*

#### *Article 5 - Languages*

*1-The official language of FIFCJ is French, the language of its founders.*

*2-The working languages of FIFCJ are English, Arabic, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and any other language necessary for the proper advancement of the work.*

### *Article 6 – Logo*

*The Logo of the FIFCJ is the head of a woman holding both an olive branch and an open law book, the whole enclosed in a circle and printed in the colour green.*

## *Chapter III*

### *Membership*

#### *Article 7 – Admission*

*1- All persons who want to be a member of FIFCJ must agree with its Aims and work towards the accomplishment of its Objectives..*

*2- There are 3 kinds of membership, active members, associated members and honorary members.*

*3- members may qualify for active membership in the Federation if they are: :*

*a) In an association of women jurists;*

*b) women with a law degree or an equivalent degree in their country, are considered individual members when there is no*

*association who is member of FIFCJ, or they are not a member of an association member of FIFCJ*

4- admitted as associated members are:

a) law students, or students in other fields, as individual members or grouped in associations,

b) any other person, regardless of sex or academic qualification,

c) associations or federations comprising men and women jurists.

5- Honorary membership should go to persons who through their prestige, their knowledge, their experience or their position have manifested a desire to collaborate in the work of the Federation, wish to support it and have shown by their actions an identification with the aims of FIFCJ.

#### *Article 8 – Rights and Duties*

1- All the members of FIFCJ have a right to participate in its work.

2- Only active members of FIFCJ have the right to vote, to elect and to be elected. This also applies to former Presidents and founding members..

3- The active members must pay annual dues,

4- The associated members and the honorary members have consultative but not deliberative status,

5- The members of FIFCJ must:

a) Respect the statutory Aims and Objectives of FIFCJ;

b) Participate actively in all the work of the FIFCJ,

c) Work diligently in all the posts to which they have been elected or to which they have been appointed.

d) Respect and apply the Statutes and Bylaws of the FIFCJ.

6- No member may use her right to vote, be nominated for any position, be a candidate or participate in any manner in any election if she has not paid her current membership dues to either FIFCJ for individual members, or her national association, as may be the case.

#### *Article 9 – Disbarment*

1- The General Assembly of FIFCJ can decide the disbarment of any member after a formal RAR request has been made and not been complied with and after an explication has been given for non compliance:

- a) if her membership dues have not been paid during 3 consecutive years,
- b) if she commits an action that is contrary to the Aims and Objectives of FIFCJ or harms its reputation

2- The General Assembly decides on the resignation of any member from the Federation,

### *Chapter IV*

#### *Internal Organisation*

##### *Section I – General Rules*

#### *Article 10 – Congress*

1- A Congress will be held every 3 years, it is open to all persons even non-members

of FIFCJ.

2- The final resolutions agreed to by the Congress shall be presented to the General Assembly of FIFCJ in the form of a Recommendation.

#### Article 11 - Organs

1-The organs of the Federation are:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Council
- c) Bureau
- d) Commission of Control of the Budget

2- FIFCJ is represented by a President, elected from the members of the Council

3- The terms of office of members of FIFCJ's organs are of three years

4- Their terms of office are renewable

5- The terms of office of the President may only renewed one time.

#### Article 12 – Quorum

1- The decisions of all the parts of the FIFCJ are taken at the simple majority, except those of the General Assembly concerning disbarments, the amount of membership dues, any modification to the statutes and the dissolution of the FIFCJ, those require a majority of two thirds.

2- In order to be valid all decisions taken by any part of FIFCJ must muster at least 35% of its membership

3- All decisions of any part of the FIFCJ must be published and the members informed in accordance with the manner stated in article 13 of the Internal Rules.

## *Section II – The General Assembly*

### *Article 13 – Definition*

*1- The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of FIFCJ*

*2- FIFCJ meets as a General Assembly every three years at the place and date where the Congress is held*

### *Article 14 – Composition*

*1- The General Assembly is made up of all the members of the FIFCJ who have the right to a vote*

*2- Only delegates to the General Assembly may vote*

*3-The delegates to the General Assembly are chosen in the following manner:*

*a) In the countries having one Association member of FIFCJ. the Association chooses among its members 3 delegates to the General Assembly;*

*b) In the countries having several Associations member of FIFCJ, these must agree between each other and chose among all their members 3 delegates to the General Assembly*

*c) In the countries having one or several Associations member of FIFCJ and also individual members, the Associations and the individual members have to agree to chose among all the members 3 delegates to the General Assembly*

*d) In the countries where there are only individual members, there will be one delegate for up to twenty-five members, two delegates for up to fifty members, and three delegates for more than fifty.*

*4- The name of all the delegates to the General Assembly must be transmitted to the President of the General Assembly at least 30 days before it is held.*

*5- In the cases where no accords are possible the Council shall meet and select 3*

*delegates to the General Assembly*

#### *Article 15 – Attributions*

*1- The General Assembly's attributions are::*

- a) Elect its own President and two Secretaries,*
- b) Nominate Honorary Presidents,*
- c) Elect the members of the Council and members of the Commission of the Control of the Budget,*
- d) Create permanent Working Commissions and elect their Presidents,*
- e) Elect the 'Secretaries of Expression'*
- f) Receive the triennial reports of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, the President of the Commission of Control of the Budget, the Presidents of permanent Working Commissions and of the representatives of FIFCJ with other institutions*
- g) Decide on the appeals of decisions made by all parts of the FIFCJ*
- h) Ratify the joining of new members and decide on demands for disbarment,*
- i) Select the topic of the work of each triennial,*
- j) Approve the accounting and the payment of expenses;*
  - k) Ratify the decisions of the Council in conformity with article 18 n°2;*
  - l) Delegate to the Council those matters that are within its competency,*
  - m) Approve and modify Electoral Rules,*
  - n) Decide on the modification of Statutes in conformity with article 33,*
  - o) Determine the date and place of the next Congress,*
  - p) Deliberate on all matters that it considers necessary*

#### *Article 16 – Direction of the work*

*The work of the General Assembly shall be conducted by the President of the General*

*Assembly. She shall be assisted by two Secretaries.*

### *Section III – The Council*

#### *Article 17 – Definition and composition*

*1- The Council manages the current affairs of FIFJ*

*2- It is made up of councillors elected by the General Assembly, and includes the President of FIFCJ, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Adjoint Secretary General, the Treasurer, and the Adjoint Treasurer.*

*3- There will be a maximum of 10 vice-presidents. It will be quite possible that one or more positions will not be filled.*

*4- Each country has the right to be represented by three elected councillors. The country of the President has also the right to three councillors in addition to the President.*

*5. The following are members by right of the Council: Honorary Presidents, founding members and former Presidents of the Federation.*

#### *Article 18 – Attributions*

*1- The Council's attributions are::*

- a) Elect from its membership the President of FIFCJ and the members of the Bureau*
- b) Receive the annual reports of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, the President of the Commission of the Control of the Budget,*

*Presidents of Commissions, Secretaries of Expression, representatives of FIFCJ with other organisations and national reports.*

*c) Organise the internal structuring of the work of FIFCJ.*

*a) Receive and approve the accounts of the year*

*b) Establish the budget*

*c) Constitute temporary Working Commissions and designate their Presidents and members*

*d) To charge the Bureau to take any decision that it considers necessary;*

*e) Set the place and date of its next meeting and set its agenda*

*f) Give its opinion on any matter it judges to be necessary and indispensable.*

*2- Under reservation of the General Assembly's approval, the Council may:*

*a) Receive, examine and accept requests for membership in the Federation*

*b) Submit requests for disbarment*

*c) Submit the amount of membership dues*

*d) Approve and modify the Internal Rules.*

#### *Article 19– Obligations of the members*

*1- The Council's member's obligations are:*

*a) after each meeting of the Council to inform the membership of their country of the decisions and resolutions taken at the session;*

*b) to largely distribute in their respective countries all the information, circulars, documents, bulletins sent to them by all parts of FIFCJ,*

*c) all members must submit an annual report of their activities to the Council*

*2- The Council may suspend from her functions any Councillor who, evidently, does not fulfil her obligations and who does not provide a valid excuse for it.*

*3- Any Councillor who, except for valid circumstances accepted by the Bureau, has not attended in person any of the meetings of the Council during her term of office cannot*

*again stand for office as a member of the Council*

#### *Section IV – The Bureau*

##### *Article 20 – Definition and Composition*

*1- The Bureau is the executive part of FIFCJ, it is made up of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Adjoint Secretary-General, the Treasurer, the Adjoint Treasurer and a maximum of 12 members to ensure a world wide representation*

*2- All former Presidents are ex-officio members of the Bureau*

##### *Article 21 - Attributions*

*1-The Bureau sees to the execution of the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Council.*

*2- The Bureau must:*

- a) Plan the activities of FIFCJ,*
- b) Receive and approve the Reports or advice of the permanent Work Commissions,*
- c) Designate the members of the Electoral Commission,*
- d) Designate the members of the Organising Commission of the Congress,*
- e) Advise on applications for membership*
- f) Advise on disbarment requests*
- g) Set the agenda of the Council;*
- h) Assemble the Council if it judges it necessary*

*3- Under reservation of ratification by the Council, the Bureau may::*

- a) Name the representatives of the FIFCJ to any organisation or international, regional*

*or national meeting,*

*b) Create temporary commissions it feels are useful, and designate the President and members of such,*

*c) In case of a vacancy, designate the supplementary Secretaries of the Commission of Control of the Budget*

*4- Whenever it should be necessary, the Bureau can act immediately on matters that are within the competency of the Council and can speak to current international subjects, if these are relevant to the aims and objectives of FIFCJ.*

## *Section V – The Commission of Control of the Budget*

### *Article 22 – Definition and Composition*

*1- The Commission of Control of the Budget is the part of' FIFCJ that controls its finances.*

*2- The Commission of Control of the Budget is made up of a President and of two Secretaries,*

### *Article 23- Attributions*

*1- The Commission of Control of the Budget mission is::*

*a) To verify the accounting of FIFCJ;*

*b) To advise on the annual budget projections and on the amount of the membership dues,*

*c) Submit any suggestion that can properly increase the resources of the Federation*

*2- The Commission of Control of the Budget presents a report on its activities to the*

*Council and the General Assembly*

*Chapter V -Appeals*

*Section I – General Principles*

*Article 24– General Rule*

*All decisions may be appealed*

*Article 25 – Legitimity*

*Any and all active members of FIFCJ have the right to present an appeal..*

*Section II – Procedure*

*Article 26– Presentation*

*1- Appeals must be addressed in writing and in the RAR format to the President of the General Assembly and must be motivated.*

*2- Appeals must designate the contested decision, indicate in a brief expose the motives for the contestation indicating which statute or regulation has been violated, it must be also include all the documentation useful for investigating the appeal and mention the date when the contested decision was communicated to the appellant..*

### *Article 27– Method of Appeal*

*Upon receiving an appeal, the President of the General Assembly shall inform, in RAR format, the President of FIFCJ and the members of the part of FIFCJ who authored the contested decision, and they must reply, if required, in the same format, and within a delay of 30 days.*

### *Article 28 – Decision*

*1- Upon the expiration of the above cited delay, the file shall be transmitted by the President of the General Assenbly to the two Secretaries of the General Assenbly and she shall call a meeting in order to decide on the appeal.*

*2- If necewssary, the President of the General Assembly may request all documents or clarifications useful to the investigation of the appeal.*

*3- The decision on the appeal shall be immediately communicated to the interested parties, in the RAR format.*

### *Article 29- Appeals to the General Assembly*

*1 – If the author of the appeal does not signify her disaccord with the decision within 30 days of the RAR letter, the decision shall be considered final..*

*2- If, in the contrary, a disaccord is found, the President of the General Assembly shall present this appeal to the next General Assembly who will then decide on it as a court of last resort.*

### *Article 30 – Delays*

*1- Appeals must be presented within 15 days following the date of the communication of the contested decision.*

*2- The President of the General Assembly must send the communications mentioned in article 27 within 5 days of the reception of the appeal.*

*3- The answers of the interested parties mentioned in article 26 must be sent within 15 days following the date of the reception of the communications of the President of the General Assembl, in RAR format.*

*4- The President of the General Assembly must then act in accordance with article 28 paragraph 1 and within 5 days following the reception of the responses of the interested parties..*

*6- The meeting indicated in article 28 paragraph 1 shall be held as soon as possible, and at the latest 90 days after the presentation of the appeal, except for a compelling reason.*

### *Chapter VI - Finance*

#### *Article 31 – Finances*

*1-The financial year begins on the 1st of January and ends on the 31st of December each year*

*2- The resources of the Federation come from::*

*a) membership dues:*

*b) subventions or donations*

*c) all other sources and means of financing*

#### *Article 32- Membership Dues*

*1- Membership dues are set for all active members. They must be paid before the 30th March of each year.*

*2- The amount of the membership dues are set by the General Assembly.*

*ChapterVII -Modification of the Statutes*

#### *Article 33 – Coordination*

*All propositions of modification of the Statutes shall be addressed to the Secretary-General at least 3 months before the date of the General Assembly.*

#### *Article 34– Limits*

*No proposition of modification of the Statutes may apply to the text of article 2 of the Statutes.*

*Article 35– Liquidation*

*In case of dissolution, the sitting Bureau will constitute a Commission of Liquidation, working under the direction of the General Assembly.*

*Chapter VIII -Final and Transitory*

*Dispositions*

*Article 36 – Effective Date*

*The Statutes become effective immediately after their approval by the General Assembly.*