



WFURS

BYLAWS

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World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability

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INTRODUCTION

As a result of the world-wide cooperation in the fields of mining and resources technology science, a permanent international organization known as the World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability was created during a conference at University of Technology Bergakademie Freiberg in June 2012.

The initiative for this World Forum has been fostered by the Mining University St. Petersburg (Russia) and the University of Technology Bergakademie Freiberg (Germany).

In order to promote fruitful cooperation, the members of the International Organizing Committee of the World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability, representing over 100 institutions and universities of resources in 52 countries, have decided to establish these Bylaws during their third regular Annual Meeting at Akita University, Akita, Japan on 13 – 16 September 2015, following the charge provided at their second regular Annual Meeting at Montanuniversitaet Leoben (MUL) in Austria in October 2014. These Bylaws are based upon the Constitution as discussed, voted on and implemented during second regular Annual Meeting at Montanuniversitaet Leoben (MUL) in Austria in October 2014.

The aim of the World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability is the global implementation of the idea of sustainable development in the raw material life cycles with focus on education and research and communicating a new raw material awareness in society, economy, science and politics.

The World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability offers a platform for world-wide scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information with respect to the development of sustainable mining and environmental protection. Fields of interaction will be Ecology, Economics and Social awareness concerning the extractive resource industry, including the mining of minerals, energy resources, metals and related water management.

BYLAWS

Article 1/2015: NAME AND HEADQUARTERS

1. The name of the Society is: World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability.
2. The Society was established in the city of Freiberg, Germany.
3. The Society is a voluntary and non-profit making association, registered according to German law

Article 2/2015: PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability is the global implementation of the idea of sustainable development in the raw material life cycles with focus on education and research, staff exchange and improving awareness of any new raw material issue in society, economy, science and politics.
2. This purpose is to be achieved through the support of exchange of information and research, educational cooperation, joint activities of the members and the promotion of sustainability as a technical science in all raw material related fields.

Article 3/2015: DURATION

1. The Society has been established for an indefinite period.
2. The financial year of the Society is from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Article 4/2015: MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three regular classes of membership as defined in article 6 of the Constitution. All memberships are institutional; there are no individual or personal memberships. An additional “honorary” membership is also provided for individuals; these are not voting memberships.

1. Membership Criteria

The basic classifications of membership are provided in the Constitution. Evidence of compliance with the definitions must be provided to the Secretary General by the applying institution in a short application, including a narrative discussion of purpose for application, activities involving sustainable resource development or plans for becoming involved, and basic data concerning the institution (such as number of faculty engaged, size of student body, or, in the case of industrial or corporate membership, their geographic extent of operations and size of resource base or intellectual expertise.

2. The membership of institutions may be terminated by:

- a. End of economic and/or legal activity of the member institution (Failure to pay subscriptions by the prescribed period as spelt out in the Constitution.)
- b. Cancellation by the member institution
- c. Cancellation by the Society
- d. Expulsion of the member institution by the Society

3. Cancellation of the membership by the member institution can only occur at the end of the financial year. Cancellation is done in writing to the Executive Committee allowing period of notice of at least four weeks. If the membership has not been cancelled in time, then the membership will continue until the end of the following financial year.

A member institution can terminate the membership immediately in the following events:

- a. If it is reasonable that the member cannot continue the membership.
- b. Within a month after a decision by which the rights of the member have been restricted, or the member institution's commitments have been increased.
- c. Within a month after the announcement of the termination, or change of purpose of the Society.
- d. Natural events that are beyond the control of the institution.

4. Cancellation of the membership of the Society by the Executive Committee can be done by the end of the current financial year:

- a. When a member institution, after repeated written notice, has not fulfilled its commitments for the current financial year.
- b. When a member institution no longer qualifies for membership, as defined in the Constitution.

The period of notice is at least four weeks. The membership continues until the end of the next financial year in the event that the cancellation was not completed within the required time limit. However, the cancellation may take effect immediately in the event that it is not reasonable for the Society to continue the membership to the end of the year.

5. When the membership is terminated during a financial year, the member institution remains responsible for the full year's contribution, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

6. Honorary Membership (Fellows): Any individual who provide extraordinary service to the discipline and to WFURS can be nominated for Honorary Membership as a Fellow, and elected through the following process.

- a) A nomination is made by writing to the Secretary General by any member institutional representative.
- b) The Secretary General will seek sufficient input and background to enable a reasonable discussion at the next Annual Meeting.
- c) If the Executive Committee approves the nomination of the candidate, approval by the general membership will be sought before the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. For approval prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting, voting is to take place electronically, and at least 50% of the fully paid-up members must vote in support of the nomination. For approval during the Annual Meeting, at least 50% of those voting members present must vote in support of the nomination. For this purpose, a quorum is not needed (as defined in article 16 of the Constitution).
- d) WFURS Fellow is an honorary position only.

Article 5/2015: SPONSORS, and INDUSTRY or CORPORATE MEMBERS

1. Sponsors are those organizations who have been admitted as Industrial or Corporate Members by the Executive Committee, and those who provide financial sponsorship of

activities, scholarships, or for other WFURS purposes. The Executive Committee is authorised to terminate the sponsor status in writing to admitted sponsor.

2. Industrial or Corporate Members are obliged to pay a minimum contribution, each year. The amount will be determined by the General Membership at an Annual Meeting as described in the following section.

3. Other or additional donations of financial support or in-kind support may be accepted with the approval of the general membership, if the membership so chooses.

4. Donors have the right to be present and to present at the annual general meeting with no voting rights.

Article 6/2015: CONTRIBUTIONS or DUES

Every member has to pay an annual contribution, commonly referred to as dues. The amount of the contribution to be paid by the member organization will be set by the general membership meeting. The WFURS office will provide an invoice to each member institution early in the year.

For the initial start-up period starting with the year 2015, the contributions are defined as:

- Full membership fee is charged at an annual rate of: 1000,- EUR
- Developing countries are charged half of the full membership fee
- Associate membership fee is charged at an annual rate of: 500,- EUR
- Corporate or Industrial member is charged at an annual rate as follows:
 - Industrial membership at a minimum of: 2000,- EUR
 - Corporate membership at a minimum of: 5000,- EUR

Membership fees shall be used for WFURS purposes only.

Article 7/2015: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Role, Function, and Representation

- a) The role and function of the Executive Committee is described in the Constitution.
- b) The Executive Committee represents the WFURS.
- c) The representation authorisation applies also to the President together with the Secretary General or the Treasurer, or to the Secretary General together with the Treasurer.

2. Responsibilities

- a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the WFURS.
- b) The Executive Committee is authorized to establish subsidiary bodies of temporary or permanent character, with the approval of at least 50% of the members represented at the Annual Meeting (or electronically, subject to Quorum requirements in article 16 of the Constitution); this includes any Commission, Working Group, Bureau, etc. established for the study of specific subjects or to carry out specific tasks designated by the Executive Committee.

c) The Executive Committee is authorized to cooperate with recognized organizations (national committees, for example) to initiate workshops on specific topics.

d) The Executive Committee is to maintain relations with other national or international organizations having knowledge of or interests in subjects allied to sustainability.

e) All expenditures arising from the regular duties of WFURS shall be met by the organization funds with the authorisation of the President of WFURS.

f) Additional expenditures, those that might be considered to be beyond the “regular duties of the Forum”, must be budgeted for in advance by the Secretary General and the Treasurer and duly agreed upon by the Executive Committee with a simple majority; these expenditures will then be covered by the WFURS.

Article 8/2015: MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES – OFFICERS AND OTHERS (*this list is not exhaustive*)

President

- officer and chairperson of Executive Committee
- management oversight and provide direction for the conduct of the affairs of the Society
- responsible for initial planning of future Annual General Meetings
- lead the Annual General Meeting that takes place during (usually near the end of) his or her presidency
- other responsibilities as defined in Constitution and Bylaws

Secretary General

- officer of Executive Committee
- assisting the President in organizing the Annual General Meetings
- ensuring the implementation of decisions taken at all meetings
- communication outside of the Society
- ensuring the continuity of WFURS activities
- leadership and development to pursue new initiatives
- recommendations regarding Committee memberships
- produces and distributes records of World Forum and Executive Committee meetings
- correspondence of the Society
- periodic review of World Forum official documents
- distributing information of interest to members

Treasurer

- officer of Executive Committee
- maintaining membership records
- maintaining bank accounts and other financial records
- managing WFURS procurement
- World Forum awards procurement

Regional Representatives

- member of Executive Committee
- provide regional advice/input to Executive Committee meetings
- identify opportunities for new membership within their regions
- propose regional meetings, as appropriate

Article 9/2015: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

1. As defined in the Constitution, WFURS shall have Standing Committees directed to the following topics, but is not limited only to these:

- Regulations
- Assistance and guidelines for academic programs on sustainability
- Mobility of members (including capacity building and education)
- Networking (including research and development, industry, conferences and publications)

2. Terms of Reference for each Working Group:

- Regulations
 - Monitor governmental regulations and industry standards
 - Develop strategies for future development of WFURS
 - Make recommendations to Executive Committee concerning strategy implementation
 - Propose revisions to Bylaws as deemed appropriate to meet goals efficiently
 - Provide assistance and guidelines for academic programs on sustainability
 - Conduct regular surveys of education programs and student/staff numbers
 - Share and promote innovative teaching and learning strategies on Sustainability
 - Provide opportunities to compare curricula and industry needs; and to consider benchmarking options
 - Develop strategies for WFURS to certify sustainability programs worldwide
 - Develop strategies for WFURS to assist new programs and/or personnel

- Mobility of Members

This committee should provide assistance in understanding international transferral of skills, best practices, and other elements of sustainable resource development. Such items as professional certification, recognition of degrees, post-graduate education, or comparisons of regulations and the establishment of best practices may be considered.

- Networking
 - Identify new minerals, mining or sustainability education initiatives/needs in developing regions
 - Identify universities on resources to join WFURS (consideration of age/gender profile; representation from developing regions; etc.)
 - Develop WFURS presentation and flyer to promote the value of the World Forum– to submit to Executive Committee, then on website
 - Establishing industry R&D needs
 - Identifying research strengths/interests across WFURS membership

Article 10/2015: WFURS ANNUAL MEETING AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A. Organization and Location

1. WFURS Annual Meeting will be held in accordance with the rules and regulations as defined in the articles 16 and 17 of the Constitution. The Annual Meeting consists of the Executive Committee Meeting, the General Membership Meeting, and the Conference.
2. The Annual Meetings are held at a WFURS member institution or at any another location as selected by the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall be run by the leadership of the Executive Committee. The General Membership Meeting shall be organized by the Executive Committee with the participation of the host organization. The Conference shall be organized by the host organization with the assistance and participation of the Executive Committee and/or an organizing committee.
4. The detailed organization (meeting place, hotels, events, etc.) of each Annual Meeting shall be vested in the country in which it is held. An organising committee for the Annual Meeting can be put in place with the approval of WFURS.
5. Members have to meet their expenses to attend General meetings and pay a registration fee to attend the General Membership Meeting the amount set by the organising committee.

B. Attendance

1. The General Membership Meeting and Conference can be attended by representatives from active member institutions, donors, and those who have been invited by the Executive Committee.
2. A suspended member has the right to attend and address the meeting in which the decision for suspension is being discussed but is excused during the discussion of its suspension.

Article 11/2015: ACCOUNTING

1. The financial year covers the period from 1 January through 31 December of each year. The Annual Meeting shall normally take place within the latter 6 months of the financial year, but the General Membership Meeting may decide on a different period. At the General Membership Meeting the Executive Committee presents the annual report, covering the matters concerning the Forum. It also presents the verified or audited financial accounts, which must be approved by the membership at the general meeting. The financial documents will be signed by the President and the Treasurer upon approval.
2. If no independent verification or audit is available then the General Membership Meeting may decide to have the books checked by an audit committee of two members who are not members of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee is obliged to give all required information to the accountant or to the audit committee. The accountant or audit committee has the right to review all documents that they request.
4. If special financial knowledge is required, the committee has the right to hire, at the cost of the Society, the necessary experts. The committee reports to the general membership meeting.

Article 12/2015: SPECIAL or EMERGENCY MEETINGS

1. Special or emergency meetings can be called by the Executive Committee, as required by the Constitution or Bylaws, including the following items. These meetings may be in person, or virtual using web-conference technology, or a combination, but they must be accessible by the general membership.

2. When at least 10% of the membership requests a special or emergency meeting, then the Executive Committee is obliged to organise such a meeting within four weeks of the request. If no action is taken by the Executive Committee within 14 days, then those who requested the meeting can call for one.
3. The special or emergency meeting can be called for in writing or by e-mail, providing the members at least seven days advance notice. An agenda of the meeting is to be included with the invitation. Background information should be provided to the extent that this is practical.

Article 13/2015: PUBLICATIONS FROM MEETINGS

1. Titles of the technical papers to be presented at any General Membership Meeting shall be published by the WFURS office or the Executive Committee four weeks before the general membership meeting.
2. The discussions, official speeches, and other non-technical aspects of the General Membership Meeting shall be published as soon as practicable after the termination of the meeting, by the National Committee of the organizing country or by the host institution.
3. The official transactions shall normally be published in English. Copies may also be reproduced in any of the other official Congress languages and its own National language at the discretion of the general membership meeting host country.

Article 14/2015: CHANGES TO BYLAWS

1. The Bylaws can only be changed in a meeting in which the change of Bylaws was announced as part of the agenda.
2. The document(s) with the changes must be announced and sent to all members at least two months before the meeting electronically or hard copy by post, and are to be made available in hardcopy at an announced place of the meeting during the meeting.
3. The policy regarding establishment of a quorum and voting by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting or electronically will be enforced; changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds majority of those voting to take effect.
4. The changes are only effective after a deed by a notary has been made. Any Executive Committee member can be present at the notary.
5. The procedure mentioned under sub 1) and 2) is not necessary in the case that all member institutions are present or represented by proxy at the meeting and the proposal has been approved by all members.
6. The Executive Committee is obliged to send an authentic copy of the changed Bylaws to all members.

Article 15/2015: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND ETHICS

All WFURS members should conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of professional practice and ethical behaviour at all times, during their involvement with WFURS activities. This should include, but not be limited to:

- Due acknowledgement of any shared resources from other members
- Recognition of confidentiality and any other restrictions on the use or circulation of materials
- Up-front declaration of any conflict of interest situations.

Article 16/2015: DISSOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

1. Article 11 of these Bylaws (“ACCOUNTING”) sub 1), 2), 3) and 5) remain applicable in case a decision is taken to dissolve the Society.
2. The General Membership Meeting establishes a purpose for the remaining funds.
3. The financial settlement is carried out by the Executive Committee.
4. After the dissolution, the Society remains in existence until the settlement has been completed. The statutes are still valid during that period. All correspondence shall include the words “In Liquidation” behind the name of the Society.
5. The settlement finishes at the moment that no funds are left.
6. All books and documents have to be saved for a period of 10 years at a place decided upon by the Executive Committee. A person responsible for the safekeeping shall be appointed.

Article 17/2015: CONSTITUTION

1. The General Membership Meeting established the Constitution. The Bylaws include all matters not covered by the Constitution.
2. The Bylaws may not include articles which are in contradiction to the Constitution; in the event of any contradictions, the intent of the Constitution takes precedence.

Article 18/2015: COMING INTO FORCE OF THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall come into force on the day on which they are accepted by a simple majority of represented members at a General Membership Meeting.

English, French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and German texts of the Bylaws shall be equally authentic, but in the case of disputes, the original language (English) shall take precedence.

Article 19/2015: FINAL ARTICLE

The General Membership Meeting has all rights which are not specifically assigned to others in the Bylaws or the Constitution.

FINAL ACT

These Bylaws are approved in Akita on September 14th, 2015 and signed, after partial reading, by the representatives of the World Forum members present.