



Statutes

International Federation of the Blue Cross

2004

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Art. 1

Common Vision

The Blue Cross is a worldwide Christian movement working with the issue of alcohol and other drugs, seeking to improve the quality of life through love, faith and freedom. The International Federation of the Blue Cross (subsequently called “the Federation” is an umbrella organization.

Starting from this common vision, the members do themselves specify the key points of the activities and the fundamental values that they support.

Art. 2

Principles and Objectives

2.1 The **Blue Cross movement** works with the help of God and his word.

2.2 **Principles of the movement**

2.2.1 It proclaims that true freedom comes through **faith in Jesus Christ**.

2.2.2 It promotes **abstinence as a basic tool** to avoid or overcome dependency on alcohol and other drugs.

2.2.3 It emphasises the importance of abstinence as a personal choice and an act of solidarity.

2.2.4 It conducts all Blue Cross events free of alcohol and other drugs.

2.2.5 It is a democratic organization, politically and denominationally independent.

2.3 **Objectives of the movement**

2.3.1 It develops suitable programmes for **prevention** for children, young people and adults and for the **treatment** of dependency on alcohol and other drugs.

2.3.2 it promotes a **healthy lifestyle** free of alcohol and other drugs.

2.3.3 It furthers the development of healing communities on a local level through a variety of **offers for aid** made by professional and voluntary collaborators and through **self-help activities**.

2.3.4 It develops networks for support and co-operation within the Blue Cross according to the values of **partnership and mutual respect** for national and cultural diversity.

- 2.3.5 It motivates **Christian churches and organizations** throughout the world to be partners in mutual cooperation and network.
- 2.3.6 It influences **public opinion and politics** on the issue of alcohol and other drugs.
- 2.3.7 It co-operates with governmental and nongovernmental organizations on a **national and international level**.
- 2.3.8 It contributes towards the work against **poverty and social exclusion** especially connected with alcohol and other drugs

Art. 3 **Membership** of National Societies and Organizations.

- 3.1 **National Blue Cross** and **Blue Ribbon Societies** and other **Christian organizations** (subsequently called: member organizations) working in accordance with the **same principles** can become members of the Federation.
- 3.2 The membership is decided by the Network Committee, which decides on **affiliation or expulsion according to the conditions** approved by the General Assembly. In the case of an expulsion member organizations may appeal to the next General Assembly. For admission or expulsion unanimity is required.
- 3.3 Member organizations are obliged to present **new or amended statutes** to the Federation for acceptance.
- 3.4 The member organizations settle the rights and duties of their own members.
- 3.5 **Individuals** cannot become members of the Federation. (The status of individual membership does not exist in the Federation).

Art. 4 **Mission**

As an **umbrella organization** it is the task of the Federation:

- 4.1 to support the needs of member organizations and regional groups of member organizations, including financial aspects.
- 4.2 to represent the Blue Cross movement as a whole and strengthen its unity.

- 4.3 to initiate, coordinate and nurture network relations within the Federation and between the Federation and the other organizations.
- 4.4 to organize common events within the Federation for dialogue, sharing and decision-making.
- 4.5 to utilise and channel the special competences and resources of member organizations for Federation purposes through assignments.
- 4.6 to expand the Blue Cross movement to new nations and regions.

Art. 5 **General Assembly**

- 5.1 The **highest authority** of the Federation is held by the General Assembly, which meets every four years.
- 5.2 The General Assembly consists of **delegates** from each member organization.
 - 5.2.1 Each member organization has one delegate who is entitled to one vote. The other participants of the General Assembly may not vote.
 - 5.2.2 Each national **youth association** sends one delegate to the General Assembly who is entitled to one vote.
 - 5.2.3 The members of the Network Committee also have a right to vote.
- 5.3 At the request of one-third of the national executives of the member organizations, the Network Committee of the Federation must convene an **extraordinary General Assembly** within six months. If necessary the Network Committee can also request an extraordinary General Assembly.
- 5.4 The time and place of the General Assembly must be communicated to the member organizations at least five months in advance.
- 5.5 Each member organization is allowed to submit **proposals** to the General Assembly.
- 5.6 Proposals for **elections** are to be submitted to the Network Committee four months in advance.
- 5.7 The **agenda and the documents** shall be sent to member organizations at least **two months** in advance.

- 5.8 The General Assembly has the following rights:
- 5.8.1 Election of tellers
 - 5.8.2 Election to the chairperson for the assembly
 - 5.8.3 Approval of the Network Committee's report
 - 5.8.4 Passing of the annual accounts after reading the auditors' report
 - 5.8.5 Decision on the principles of annual subscription fees
 - 5.8.6 Decision on the guidelines for the work of the Federation
 - 5.8.7 Motions from member organizations
 - 5.8.8 Motions from the Network Committee
 - 5.8.9 Elections of the Network Committee
- 5.9. The General Assembly **elects** the following by secret ballot for a period of four years:
- 5.9.1 the President and the Vice-President of the Federation
 - 5.9.2 the other five members of the Network Committee
 - 5.9.3 the auditors
 - 5.9.4 the election committee
 - 5.9.5 Should an elected member **resign before the end** of his term of office, the Network Committee, in cooperation with the election committee, shall nominate a deputy for the remaining period of office.
- 5.10 In the first round of all elections an **absolute majority** (half of the votes plus one) of the votes from the delegates entitled to vote has to be obtained. In the second round, a **simple majority** is sufficient.
- 5.11 A simple majority is required for other votes. For changes in the statutes Article 10.4. is applied.

Art. 6 **Network Committee (NC)**

- 6.1 The Network Committee is the **executive body** of the Federation.
- 6.2 The Network Committee is **composed** of:
- the president,
 - the vice-president
 - the person responsible for finances
 - one person to represent the youth associations
 - and at least three other members
- The general secretary attends the meetings in an advisory capacity, the NC is free to invite other people to the meetings with an advisory capacity.

- 6.3 The President directs the work of the Network Committee as the prime representative of the Federation.
- 6.4 The Network Committee is **competent** to:
 - 6.4.1 prepare the General Assembly
 - 6.4.2 carry out decisions of the General Assembly
 - 6.4.3 acknowledge member organizations' yearly reports
 - 6.4.4 receive the annual accounts for the attention of the General Assembly
 - 6.4.5 prepare the budget
 - 6.4.6 accept amendments of statutes from member organizations
 - 6.4.7 approve regulations
 - 6.4.8 Elect and dismiss the general secretary
 - 6.4.9 accept or exclude member organizations.
 - 6.4.10 initiate activities
- 6.5 The Network Committee **meets** as frequently as necessary, at least once a year.

Art. 7 **Administration**

- 7.1 The Federation may provide a **General Secretariat**, which is managed by a general secretary. The seat of the secretariat is decided by the General Assembly.
- 7.2 The legal address of the Federation is that of the General Secretariat. If there is no General Secretariat it will be the domicile of the president.
- 7.3 The Network Committee defines the job specifications for the general secretary.
- 7.4 The Network Committee is responsible for the hiring of the General Secretariat's permanent staff. Within the limits of the budget the general secretary may hire staff as appropriate.
- 7.5 The Network Committee may establish **work groups for special purposes**. The general secretary has the right to attend any meeting in an advisory capacity.

Art. 8 **Finances**

- 8.1 The activities of the Federation are mainly financed by the member organizations, service fees, projects and also grants and donations.
- 8.2 The key for subscription fees is agreed upon with the members individually.
- 8.3 The Federation is only liable to the extent of its assets and Network Committee members and member organizations are not personally liable for the Federation's debt.
- 8.4 The members of the Network Committee are entitled to have their travel and accommodation expenses paid.
- 8.5 A member organization's resignation must be given to the Federation in writing. The resigning organization is obliged to pay the subscription for the current year.

Art. 9 **Legal basis and the emblem of the Federation**

- 9.1 There exists an association named „International Federation of the Blue Cross“ founded in accordance with the, Swiss Civil Code Art. 60-79.
- 9.2 The emblem of the Federation is a blue cross on a white background.
- 9.3 The English version is the original basis for these statutes. All references to people are valid for both sexes.

Art. 10 **Transitory decisions and final procedures**

- 10.1 Any case not provided for in these statutes will be decided upon according to the Swiss Civil Code.
- 10.2 The present affiliated National Societies are considered to be member organizations without any reservations.
- 10.3 The statutes can be modified by the General Assembly on receipt of a proposal from the Network Committee or on a proposal from at least three member organizations.

- 10.4 Proposals for amendments of the statutes must be communicated to the member organizations together with the agenda.
- 10.5 Amendments of statutes require a two-thirds majority vote of participants entitled to vote and present at the General Assembly.
- 10.6 The Federation can only be dissolved as the consequence of a proposal by three member organizations presented within the correct time limit and voted and agreed by three-quarters of the member organizations.
- 10.7 In the event of dissolution, any assets will be distributed among the member organizations in proportion to the subscriptions made by them during the previous three years.
- 10.8 These statutes replace those dated 4 June 1909, Hamburg, (Germany) and the amendments dated 11 August 1955, Copenhagen, (Denmark) 22 September 1971, Holzhausen, (Germany) 9 July 1981, Seeboden, (Austria) and 24 July 1989, Leuenberg, (Switzerland).
- 10.9 The statutes were revised by the extraordinary General Assembly held on 22 /23 July 2004 at Hillerød, (Denmark) and accepted as set out in this document with immediate effect.

24 July 2004:

The president:

One member of the Network Committee:

Appendix 1

Conditions of membership

- The organization must present its statutes
- It must present its action plan for the next year and reports of activities of the past two years
- It must list the members of the ruling bodies of their organization: their occupations, role in the organization and any financial connection to the organization
- It must present its basic strategies, visions and mission and how they are applied in practice
- It must present its network.
- An expulsion will be decided by the Network Committee. The member organization can address a written recourse to the General Assembly.
- In case of the dissolution of a member organization the membership fee is to be paid for the running year.

Appendix 2

Principles for the election committee

- The members of the Network Committee should represent different types of member organizations, geographical regions and different language groups. Including this, the election committee shall also take account of other relevant issues, such as gender.

Appendix 3

Promoting network in the Federation

- The strength of the Blue Cross movement depends on the cooperation between its member organizations.
- Every member organization must nominate a responsible person or committee for international relationships and the guarantee for collaboration.