

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD ANTHROPOLOGICAL UNION (WAU)

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Chapter 1. Composition of the World Anthropological Union

- 1) The World Anthropological Union (hereafter WAU) is an organisation comprising individual anthropologists from around the world as well as national and regional (including international) anthropology/ethnology associations.
- 2) WAU incorporates the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), each as a distinctly separate but constituent chamber in a federal structure.
- 3) WAU’s sovereign legislative and other major decision-making body is the WAU Constituency. It comprises:
 - a) all paid-up individual and Group/Corporate Members plus all honorary members that together constitute the IUAES chamber <WAU OGRs Clause 4.1 & Clause 4.4>; plus
 - b) all Member Associations that constitute the WCAA chamber <WAU OGRs Clause 5.1>.
- 4) A Steering Committee (hereafter SC) will manage the day-to-day affairs of WAU and make all decisions that do not require a vote of the WAU Constituency.

Chapter 2. Changes to the Constitution

- 5) Formal proposals for amending or supplementing the WAU Constitution may be proposed by either a sixty percent majority of SC members or by groups of at least ten percent of the paid-up Individual Members supported by at least ten percent of the paid-up Member Associations.
- 6) All formal proposals for amending the Constitution will require approval of a sixty percent majority vote of the WAU Constituency <see WAU OGRs Clause 9.17 for details regarding quora>.

- 7) Proposals for amendment of the Constitution must be circulated to all WAU members at least two months prior to a vote being taken.

Chapter 3. Operational Guidelines and Rules

- 8) This Constitution is supplemented by administrative Operational Guidelines and Rules, as approved by the WAU Constituency.
- 9) Proposals for amending the Operational Guidelines and Rules, or for supplementing them, may be made by a simple majority of the SC, or by the WAU Constituency proposed in the same manner as proposals for changes to the Constitution. Proposals must be circulated to all members of the WAU Constituency at least one month prior to a vote being taken.
 - a) Proposals for amending the Operational Guidelines and Rules require a simple majority vote of the WAU Constituency for approval <see WAU OGRs Clause 9.17 for details regarding quora>.
 - b) A restricted set of the Operational Guidelines and Rules, relating to membership fees and other matters needing quick decisions in the best interests of WAU, can be amended by the SC with a sixty percent majority vote. Such amendments must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the WAU Constituency at the next appropriate opportunity.

Chapter 4. Dissolution

- 10) Any proposal to dissolve the WAU requires support of a sixty percent majority of the WAU Constituency, or alternatively a seventy-five percent majority of either the IUAES General Assembly or the WCAA Delegates Meeting.
 - a) A decision to dissolve the WAU must specify to what entity/ies any WAU assets at the time of dissolution are to be transferred. The goal must be to be equitable and to allocate resources to best serve the advancement of anthropologies globally.

Chapter 5. Goals, Aims and Objectives

The primary goals, aims and objectives of the WAU are:

- 11) To represent anthropologies and ethnologies at a global and international level.
- 12) To respond to external requests or topical issues arising from world events where a global anthropological commentary is appropriate and in the discipline's interest, including where the discipline of Anthropology or Anthropologists may be under threat.
- 13) To advance and promote anthropology/ethnology as a form of professional practice and as a set of critical perspectives, in all its diversity, across all sub-disciplinary fields of scientific and humanistic enquiry, and on a world-wide scale.
- 14) To increase the global visibility and impact of anthropology/ethnology for the benefit of all humanity, as a discipline firmly advocating cross-cultural and intercultural understanding, mutual respect, equality, justice, cooperation on global challenges and world peace.

- 15) To provide a growing range of tangible and intangible benefits to anthropologists/ethnologists and their associations around the world.
- 16) To promote anthropology/ethnology in regions and countries where the discipline is developing or where anthropologists/ethnologists have no representative bodies.
- 17) To promote communication, collaborations and cooperation worldwide so as to strengthen research capacity and teaching within the discipline.
- 18) To stimulate debate emanating from the diversity of views and perspectives within World Anthropologies, whilst also seeking to compare their respective perspectives and thus to identify common concerns and shared understandings.
- 19) To facilitate research networking and active collaboration among anthropologists/ethnologists and other scholars in different parts of the world.
- 20) To stimulate cooperation among all scientific and professional organisations and institutions devoted to promoting this field of knowledge.
- 21) To facilitate global gatherings of anthropologists/ethnologists through hosting a major WAU World Anthropology Congress (held approximately every four years), as well as regular WAU Congresses and smaller field-specific events, rotating across all geographical regions to ensure a high degree of accessibility.
- 22) To develop an exemplary global community of anthropologists and ethnologists, wherein all educators and practitioners working in this field can meet, communicate and interact in equality and freedom, and in a spirit of common humanity and mutual respect, regardless of nationality, “race”, ethnicity, religion gender, class, language, age, sexual orientation, or sexual identity.
- 23) To promote understanding, appreciation and respect across all socially constructed boundaries, including but not restricted to those of language, cultural identity, religion, history, nation and political affiliation, and to promote the use of such important intellectual and practical tools as have been developed in the disciplines of anthropology/ethnology for this purpose.
- 24) To promote a growing awareness among the general public of the scope, significance and contemporary relevance of anthropology/ethnology, of the major subject matters studied by anthropologists and ethnologists, and of the intrinsic value of cultural and epistemological diversity for human survival and well-being.
- 25) To cooperate informally or formally with other organisations that share in the WAU agenda and are focused on anthropology, ethnology and related disciplines, especially in the social sciences, the humanities, environmental science and human biology.
- 26) To engage in international co-operation with closely related disciplines and areas of study, notably through participation, as much as is practical and affordable, in the International Science Council, the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the International Council of Museums and similar organisations.
- 27) To advocate for the appropriate participation and inclusion of anthropologists/ethnologists in international, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary endeavours to address contemporary challenges.

- 28) To consider and develop such new aims as may arise from different future situations, consistent with the changing scientific, professional and social concerns of WAU members, under the coordinating guidance of the Steering Committee and with the approval of the WAU Constituency.

Chapter 6. Affiliations of WAU

- 29) Apart from engaging in informal cooperation, WAU may formally affiliate itself with other organisations in a manner consistent with WAU aims and rules.
- a) Decisions concerning: (i) initiating a formal affiliation, (ii) significant changes to the terms of a formal affiliation, or (iii) the permanent discontinuation of an existing formal affiliation must follow the rules appearing in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 30) WAU will, from its inception, formally affiliate with the International Science Council (ISC) and the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Sciences (CIPSH).
- 31) WAU will consider formal affiliation with other widely recognised and democratically representative global or international organisations concerned with anthropologies/ethnologies or cognate fields.

Chapter 7. WAU Constituency

- 32) *Individual IUAES membership* is open to all practising, professional (including academic) and student anthropologists and ethnologists, and others interested in WAU's work of knowledge dissemination and global cooperation amongst anthropologists/ethnologists and beyond. There are the following categories of Individual IUAES Membership:
- a) *Individual Professional members* are scholars or practitioners, anywhere in the world, who are active in research, teaching, administration or service provision relating to, and furthering the growth of anthropology and ethnology, broadly defined, and who commit themselves to WAU's aims and objectives. Eligible persons are:
- i) Active or retired professional anthropologists and/or ethnologists.
- ii) Holders of academic degrees in anthropology/ethnology whose subsequent professional work contributes to the discipline's development.
- iii) Professionals with other graduate level academic degrees and whose work, as assessed by the Steering Committee, bears on anthropology/ethnology and/or contributes to achieving WAU's aims and objectives.
- iv) Persons who are accepted as members by their national anthropology/ethnology associations, societies or unions.
- b) *Individual student members* are persons recognised by a national or international association, by a university department or by a research centre, as registered students in anthropology or ethnology.
- i) Persons meeting the criteria for individual professional IUAES membership are ineligible to apply for, or to retain, individual student membership status.

- c) *Individual Honorary Members* are professional anthropologists and/or ethnologists who have provided outstanding service and made contributions to scholarship in ways that have widely disseminated the insights of anthropology/ethnology and thereby contributed to WAU's aims and objectives.
 - i) Rules regarding nomination of Individual Honorary Members appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - ii) Honorary membership is life-long unless there is evidence of gross misconduct – see Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - d) Individual IUAES members, together with IUAES Scientific Commissions and IUAES Group/Corporate members, constitute the IUAES chamber.
- 33) **WCAA membership** is also open to all and any anthropology associations or societies of anthropologists anywhere in the world (though subject to a vote by the existing WCAA member associations). They include *Professional Anthropology Associations* established as subnational, national, regional and international anthropological and/or ethnological organisations.
- a) WAU member associations together constitute the WCAA chamber.
- 34) **IUAES group/corporate membership** is open to all groups, institutions and corporations dedicated to, or supportive of, anthropology and/or ethnology and not eligible for membership in the WCAA chamber. There are the following categories of IUAES group/corporate Membership other than those that are member associations of the WCAA:
- a) *Academic, Government and Non-Government Institutions*, including research institutions, university departments or institutes, national academies, named groups and networks of practitioners, and associations (other than anthropology/ethnology Associations) that are engaged in teaching, research or the administration and provision of services within the field of anthropology/ethnology.
 - b) *Special Interest groups*, including organisations or networks concerned with a particular branch of the discipline or topic of inquiry – other than those qualifying as IUAES Scientific Commissions.
 - c) *Other groups*, including academic publishers who have an interest and reputation for publishing anthropological works, which, while not meeting the requirements of any of the membership categories defined above, contribute substantially to the discipline or to WAU's work.

Chapter 8. Membership Applications and Terminations

- 35) All IUAES individual and honorary members, IUAES Scientific Commissions and IUAES Corporate Group members, as well as all present Members Associations of the WCAA, automatically become members of WAU, albeit in their respective chambers.
- 36) All applications for, and decisions regarding, *Individual Membership*, including *Honorary Membership*, shall follow the rules for such application/nomination as appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.

- 37) All applications for the establishment of a Scientific Commission shall follow the rules for such applications as appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 38) All applications for, and decisions regarding, *Group/Corporate Membership* (as defined above) shall follow the rules for such application in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 39) Individual and Group/Corporate Membership of the IUAES chamber of WAU may be terminated. Reasons and processes for termination appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules <**WAU OGRs Clause 6.1**>.
- 40) All applications for *Membership in the WCAA chamber of WAU* shall follow the rules for such application as appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 41) Membership in the WCAA chamber of WAU may be terminated. Reasons and processes for termination appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.

Chapter 9. Membership fees

- 42) All Individual and Group/Corporate Membership in the IUAES chamber of WAU will have fees payable through a protocol outlined on the IUAES website or, if that is technically not possible, by electronic funds transfer to IUAES's bank account and administered by IUAES's membership administrator.
 - a) Individual Membership fees will be differentiated on the basis of declared income levels. This is to ensure fair and equitable access to Individual Membership across all countries and economic strata.
 - b) The specific rates for different categories, as published on the WAU website, appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules and may be adjusted from time to time by the Steering Committee.
- 43) Voluntary membership fees in the WCAA chamber of WAU will be on a sliding scale differentiated on the basis of Member Associations' respective incomes.
 - a) A negotiated proportion of the income from such voluntary contributions, and of the same order proportionally as the income that the WCAA previously received as contributions from its members, will be set aside to help cover the costs of WCAA activities that entail monetary expenses.

Chapter 10. Rights and Responsibilities of WAU Members

- 44) IUAES chamber
 - a) All Individual Members (professional, honorary or student) of the IUAES chamber of WAU have the same and equal rights, irrespective of gender, "race", nationality, age, language, culture, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or any other arbitrary means of categorisation. They include the right to:
 - i) a single vote in the IUAES chamber;
 - ii) stand for election to the IUAES chamber's Executive Committee (subject to the conditions in the Operational Guidelines and Rules);

- iii) nominate other Individual, Honorary or Student Members for election to the IUAES chamber's Executive Committee;
 - iv) have access to any sections of the WAU website that are restricted to members;
 - v) receive any WAU Newsletters;
 - vi) be able to purchase any WAU-arranged discounted publications; and
 - vii) participate in WAU Congresses and WAU-sponsored conferences and events, including those organised by a Scientific Commission of the IUAES chamber of WAU, and to do so at a registration fee rate that is significantly lower than that which non-members are charged.
- b) All Individual members have the same responsibilities and obligations, namely:
- i) to abide by the Constitution and WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules; and
 - ii) Honorary and Lifetime Individual Members excepted, to pay their membership fees in a timely manner.
- c) All Scientific Commissions (currently IUAES Commissions) have the same rights, responsibilities and obligations. These appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- d) All Group/Corporate Members of the IUAES Chamber of WAU have the same rights. Each is entitled to:
- i) a single vote in the IUAES chamber;
 - ii) nominate one individual as a candidate in every election for vacant positions in the Executive Committee of the IUAES chamber;
 - iii) make specific requests and proposals to the WAU Steering Committee that will ensure that the WAU seriously considers any such requests and proposals made by a Group/Corporate member.
- e) All Group/Corporate members of the IUAES chamber of WAU have the responsibility and obligation to:
- i) abide by the Constitution and WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules; and
 - ii) pay a Group/Corporate membership fee as stipulated in Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 45) WCAA chamber
- a) All Member Associations that are in the WCAA chamber of WAU have the same and equal rights, other than in respect of their right to participate (vote) in WAU Constituency decisions. Each Member Association in the WCAA chamber of WAU is entitled to rights, as follows:
- i) If a Member Association is in good standing, it is entitled to a single vote in the WCAA chamber within WAU.
 - ii) A Member Association of the WCAA chamber of WAU can nominate individuals as candidates in every election for vacant positions in the WCAA chamber's Organising Committee (OC).

- iii) A Member Association can participate in all decision making and elections concerning the WCAA chamber, including the right to make specific requests, proposals and representations to the OC.
- b) All Member Associations that are in the WCAA chamber of WAU have the responsibility and obligation:
 - i) to abide by the Constitution of WAU and the WAU Operational Guidelines and Rules;
 - ii) to consider contributing financially to the WCAA, as per the provisions of this Constitution.
 - iii) to encourage their own individual members to participate actively in the work of WAU, through the Scientific Commissions of the IUAES chamber in WAU and at its WAU Congresses, and thus to become Individual Members of WAU.
- c) Membership in the WCAA chamber of WAU does not confer automatically on any individual who is a member of a Member Association of the WCAA.

Chapter 11. Governance of the World Anthropological Union

- 46) Governance of WAU shall be through the following bodies and structures, the purpose of which shall be to realise and, when necessary, review the aims, purpose and objectives of WAU, as well as its administrative and governance structures.
- 47) There will be two chambers within WAU, each constituted as a subsidiary functional unit responsible for managing its own procedures in fulfilment of their particular function within WAU. They are:
 - a) The IUAES chamber, in which the supreme decision-making body is a General Assembly comprising all paid-up Individual and Group/Corporate Members of the WAU who together form a distinct section of the WAU Constituency.
 - i) The IUAES chamber elects its own Executive Committee in a manner and of a composition described in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - ii) The IUAES chamber will include a Council of Commissions comprising all the Scientific Commissions.
 - iii) Further governance procedures of the IUAES chamber, including those of the Council of Commissions, appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - b) The WCAA chamber, comprising all Member Associations of the WCAA.
 - i) The WCAA chamber elects its own Organising Committee in a manner and of a composition described in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - ii) Further governance procedures of the WCAA chamber appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 48) In order to support and reinforce the unity of WAU the governance structure detailed here should be reviewed once every four years, or earlier if deemed necessary by the WAU Constituency, particularly if so advised by any or all of the WAU Steering Committee, the IUAES Executive Committee and the WCAA Organising Committee.

- 49) WAU's sovereign decision-making body is the WAU Constituency Meeting. As such the WAU Constituency is the legislative, executive and adjudicatory authority over WAU, over all its officers' activities and over all other subsidiary governing bodies, including its two distinct and semi-autonomous chambers.
- 50) All voting within the WAU Constituency will be on the basis that the combined votes of the members of the IUAES chamber will be weighted at 50% and the combined votes of the members of the WCAA chamber will be weighted at 50%. This 50:50 provision will be reviewed by the SC at least once every two years.
 - a) Details of this arrangement appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 51) The Steering Committee (SC) is the WAU executive and is responsible for the day-to-day management of WAU.
 - a) Details regarding the composition of the SC and election of its members appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - b) A WAU Treasurer, appointed by the SC, coordinates the finances of WAU.
- 52) Most decisions of the WAU Constituency will be reached with the aid of a secure, electronic, internet web-based voting platform. The voting period shall be 30 days to facilitate the participation of those who may have irregular access to the Internet.
- 53) All proposals to be considered by the WAU Constituency must be supported by at least sixty percent of the WAU SC or by ten percent of the IUAES chamber members, or by ten percent of the Member Associations of the WCAA chamber of WAU.