

Statutes

International Blue Cross

1. Common Vision

- 1.1. The Blue Cross is a worldwide Christian movement concerned with the issue of alcohol and other drugs, seeking to improve quality of life through love, faith and freedom. The International Blue Cross (subsequently called "Organization") is a non-profit umbrella organization.
- 1.2. Based on this common vision, the members individually determine their key activities and their fundamental values.

2. Principles and Objectives

- 2.1. The Blue Cross movement relies on God's help and His Word.
- 2.2. Principles of the movement
 - 2.2.1. It believes in the human capacity to change, in liberating spirituality and in the power of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 2.2.2. It promotes abstinence as a reliable method of avoiding or overcoming 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. All Blue Cross events are conducted 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 prevention programmes for children, young people and adults and provides treatment for dependency on alcohol and other drugs.
 - 2.3.2. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, free of alcohol and other drugs.
 - 2.3.3. Through mutual and self-help activities and a variety of outreach efforts made by professional and voluntary collaborators it encourages the development of healthy living communities.
 - 2.3.4. Valuing partnership and mutual respect for national and cultural diversity, it develops networks for support and cooperation within the Blue Cross.
 - 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 thrives to support the development and implementation of evidence based policies on alcohol, drugs, gambling and other related areas.
 - 2.3.8. It cooperates with governmental and non-governmental organizations on a national and international level.
 - 2.3.9. It contributes to the combat against poverty and social exclusion, especially in connection with alcohol and other drugs.
 - 2.3.10. It works as a federation for its members.

3. Mission

- 3.1. As an umbrella organization the Organization is responsible for:
 - 3.1.1. Supporting Member Organizations and their regional groups.
 - 3.1.2. Representing the Blue Cross movement as a whole and strengthening its unity.
 - 3.1.3. Initiating, coordinating and nurturing network relations within the Organization and between the Organization and the other organizations.

- 3.1.4. Organizing common events within the Organization for dialogue, sharing and decision-making.
- 3.1.5. Using and channeling the special competences and resources of member organizations for international purposes.
- 3.1.6. Spreading the Blue Cross movement to new nations and regions.

4. Membership of National Societies and Organizations

- 4.1. National Blue Cross and Blue Ribbon Organizations, Blue Cross Youth Organizations and other Christian organizations (subsequently called "Member Organizations") working in accordance with the same principles can become members of the International Blue Cross.
- 4.2. 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 event of an expulsion member organizations may appeal to the next General Assembly. For admission or expulsion unanimity is required.
- 4.3. In order to fulfill the membership criteria Member organizations are obliged to present new or amended statutes to the Organization for acceptance.
- 4.4. Member Organizations settle the rights and duties of their own members.
- 4.5. Individuals cannot become members of the Organization.

5. General Assembly

- 5.1. The highest authority of the Organization 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 have an advisory status only and may thus not vote.
 - 5.2.2. 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 Organization 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 venue of the General Assembly must be communicated to the member organizations at least five months in advance.
- 5.5. Every Member Organization may submit motions and proposals for election to the General Assembly.
- 5.6. Motions and proposals for election are to be submitted to the Network Committee or election committee four months in advance
- 5.7. The agenda, documents and proposals for election must be sent to member organizations at least two months in advance.
- 5.8. The General Assembly has the following competences:
 - 5.8.1. Election of tellers
 - 5.8.2. Election of the chairperson for the assembly
 - 5.8.3. Approval of the Network Committee's report
 - 5.8.4. Approval of the annual accounts after reading the auditors' report
 - 5.8.5. Defining the principles of annual membership fees
 - 5.8.6. Defining the guidelines for the work of the Organization.
 - 5.8.7. Processing motions from member organizations
 - 5.8.8. Processing 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
- 5.10. In the first round of all elections an absolute majority (half of the votes plus one) of valid votes from the delegates 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 10.5. is applied.

6. Network Committee (NC)

- 6.1. The Network Committee is the executive body of the Organization.
- 6.2. The Network Committee is composed of:
- the President
 - the Vice-President
 - the Treasurer
- and 4 other members + two substitute members who receive materials but do not attend the meetings unless one member is missing.
- 6.3. The President directs the work of the Network Committee as the prime representative of the Organization.
- 6.4. The Network Committee's competences are:
- 6.4.1. Preparing the General Assembly
 - 6.4.2. Carrying out decisions of the General Assembly
 - 6.4.3. Acknowledging member organizations' yearly reports
 - 6.4.4. Receiving the annual accounts for the attention of the General Assembly
 - 6.4.5. Approving the budget
 - 6.4.6. Accepting amendments of statutes from member organizations
 - 6.4.7. Approving regulations
 - 6.4.8. Appointing and dismissing the General Secretary
 - 6.4.9. Accepting or excluding member organizations
 - 6.4.10. Initiating activities
- 6.5. The Network Committee meets as frequently as necessary, however, at least once a year.

7. Administration

- 7.1. The Organization may provide a General Secretariat, which is managed by a general secretary. The seat of the secretariat is decided by the Network Committee.
- 7.2. The Organization's legal address is that of the General Secretariat. If there is no General Secretariat, the Network Committee will decide the legal address.
- 7.3. The Network Committee defines the job specifications for the general secretary.
- 7.4. The Network Committee is responsible for appointing the General Secretary. The General Secretary may appoint further staff as needed within the limits of the budget.
- 7.5. The Network Committee may establish work groups for special purposes. The general secretary has the right to attend any of those meetings in an advisory capacity.

8. Finances

- 8.1. The Organization may receive membership contributions, service fees, project funding, grants and donations as well as other legal incomes.

- 8.2. The allocation key for membership fees is agreed upon with the members individually.
- 8.3. The Organization is only liable to the extent of its assets. Network Committee members and member organizations are not personally liable for the Organization's debt.
- 8.4. The members of the Network Committee are entitled to reimbursement of their travel and accommodation expenses.
- 8.5. A member organization's resignation must be given to the Organization in writing. The resigning organization is obliged to pay their membership fee for the current year.

9. Legal basis and the emblem of the International Blue Cross

- 9.1. The International Blue Cross, originally "International Federation of the Blue Cross" was founded in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code Art. 60-79.
- 9.2. The emblem of the Organization is a blue cross on a white background.
- 9.3. The English version is the original basis for these statutes.
- 9.4. All references to people are valid for both sexes.

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 by 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 for the General Assembly.
- 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 Organization can only be dissolved as the consequence of a proposal by three member organizations, presented within the correct time limit, voted and agreed by three-quarters of the member organizations.
- 10.7. In the event of a dissolution of the Organization any assets will be allocated to another public utility or juridical person exempt of taxes, working for the common good, with domicile in Switzerland
- 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.
- 10.10. The modification of Art 10,7 and appendix 1 of these statutes are accepted by the ordinary General Assembly held on 29 November 2008 at São Bento (Brazil). The modified statutes come into immediate effect
- 10.11. These statutes were revised by ordinary GA held 5.10.2016 in Antananarivo Madagascar and are accepted as set out in this document with immediate effect.

Appendix 1: Conditions of membership

1. The organization must present its statutes.
2. It must present its action plan for the next year and reports of activities of the past two years.
3. 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.
4. It must present its basic strategies, visions and mission and how they are applied in practice.
5. It must present its network.
6. Members must be not for profit organizations
7. An expulsion will be decided by the Network Committee. The member organization can address a written recourse to the General Assembly.
8. In the event of the dissolution of a member organization, the membership fee is to be paid for the running year.

The "Guidelines for Collaboration between the IBC and affiliated Member Organizations" are an integral part of the statutes.

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. Moreover, the election committee must take account of other relevant issues, such as gender according to Election Committee Guidelines document.

Appendix 3: Promoting network in the Organization

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

Appendix 4: The list of Member organizations

The present list at the General Assembly 2016.



Anne Babb
General Secretary



Albert Moukolo
President