

CONSTITUTION
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION



Incorporation, Vienne, France, 1986
Amended, Barcelona, Spain, October 11, 1989
Amended, Montréal, Canada, October 16, 1991
Amended, Dublin, Ireland, September 29, 1994
Amended, Paris, France, May 8, 2000
Amended, New York, USA, August 2, 2003.
Amended Milano, Italy, Nov. 2012.
Amended Seoul, South Korea, Nov. 2015.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be "**World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation.**"

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The purpose and affirmative mission of the organization shall be to promote the personal, social and vocational rehabilitation of persons affected by serious psychiatric disorders throughout the world.

Specifically, it shall, in relation to such persons:

A. Promote the adoption of policies and legislation by national governments and intergovernmental agencies designed to strengthen rehabilitation services, opportunities, and financial resources, to meet both the basic and special needs of the above population.

B. Serve as a medium for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and experiences, among individuals and organizations sharing a concern for persons with psychiatric disabilities and their consequent limitation of function, and for the compilation and dissemination of information relating to rehabilitation methods and techniques.

C. Sponsor or co-sponsor or assist the planning of international, national or regional congresses, symposia, training seminars and research projects directed towards advancing the state of the art in psychosocial rehabilitation.

D. Collaborate with existing organizations, public, private and voluntary, including among others, universities, professional groups, service providers, labour and business organizations, parent and self-help organizations, research and training institutes concerned with psychosocial rehabilitation, and where necessary and practicable, to assist in the formation of groups or affiliates dedicated to the mission of the Association.

E. Provide, to the extent possible, technical assistance to public or private authorities or agencies, concerned with the enhancement of psychosocial rehabilitation.

F. Initiate and encourage educational programs dealing with rehabilitative needs and rights of people with psychosocial disabilities, as a means to ensure maximum public, professional and governmental understanding of these needs and rights, and to overcome stigma and discrimination.

G. Promote the further development of mutual and self-help groups, and foster dialogues between them and appropriate professionals and policy makers.

H. Identify and promote appropriate and humane living, working and social environments.

I. Promote constructive dialogue between and amongst professionals, policy makers, researchers, direct service workers from various disciplines and the families and individuals directly affected by major mental illness.

J. Accomplish as much as possible of the above by fostering the development of national associations linked to WAPR.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

There shall be two classes of membership: a) individual membership, and b) organizational membership through a designated representative or alternate. Organizational representation may be designated by an international, national, or sub-national organization or agency. An individual or organization may join through a national association that is part of WAPR or through a central mechanism designated by the Board of Directors. Those joining through the central mechanism will pay the full rate for dues and be known as individual international members

Section 1

All persons and organizations which share, in whole or part, the aims of this Association and desire to be informed of or participate in the activities of this Association, are eligible for membership and affiliation, upon certification by WAPR Board, with or without payment of annual membership dues as described in Article XI.

Section 2

The right to hold office, to vote in national associations where they exist or to serve the Association in any capacity shall be open to all members. Individual international members who have paid their dues may vote as individuals in the Assembly, but individuals who are members of national associations certified by WAPR may vote in the Assembly only through whatever mechanism is determined by the national association that has been accepted by WAPR.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Structure of Organization.

The organization of this Association shall consist of:

A. The Assembly shall normally meet at least every 3 years at the World Congress, and in no case shall there be a three years period between Assemblies.

B. The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of:

1. The Officers of the Association
2. Six Regional Vice Presidents and deputies according to region.
3. Two persons representing each of the following categories:
 - Families
 - Consumers
 - Voluntary Organizations
4. Up to 12 Members at large from the regular membership of the Association.
5. The Past Presidents of the Association.
6. Chairs of standing committees.
7. Editor will be in charge of the WAPR Publications committee including WAPR Bulletin) and will constitute a panel of Editors in consultation with President during each term.

C. The Officers of the Board of Directors will form the **Executive Committee and shall consist of:**

- President
- Immediate Past President
- President-elect
- Two Vice Presidents
- Regional Vice Presidents
- Secretary-General
- Deputy Secretary-General
- Editor
- Treasurer In the normal course of events the Treasurer will be proposed by the President and work in close association with him/her.

D.Regional Vice Presidents and Deputies Regional Vice-Presidents will be nominated to cover the following regions of the world: Africa Americas Eastern Mediterranean Europe South East Asia Western Pacific

Each Regional Vice President shall have up to two named Deputies who will cover for the Regional Vice President at time of absence, leave, etc. A Deputy will have a vote at a Board Meeting only in the absence of the Regional Vice President. For the purpose of this Association, Israel shall belong to the European Region. The regions and the countries within them will correspond to the regions of the World Health Organization. Each regional Vice

President shall establish liaison with the respective WHO Regional Office and such supranational organizations as exist within the region.

E. There shall be nominated a maximum of two representatives to cover each of the following sectors:

- Families (2)
- Consumers (2)
- Voluntary Organizations (2)

Members of such groups may also serve in any other position in WAPR.

F. Members at Large

Up to twelve Members at Large can be elected by the Assembly from within the regular membership of the Association. These members have full voting rights and are submitted to the same obligations as other Board Members.

G. Past Presidents

Past Presidents of the Association will participate as permanent members of the Board without voting privileges, except for the Immediate past president, who will have full voting rights.

H. National Secretaries and Associations]

There shall also be designated at the Founding Congress, from among volunteers thereof, and thereafter at the Board of Directors, National Secretaries who shall assume responsibility for conducting activities of affiliates and such nations. National Secretaries shall not be members of the Board, although they are invited to participate in the meetings of the Board.

National Secretaries may be provisionally appointed by the Executive Committee between each meeting of the Board of Directors.

As a national association for psychosocial rehabilitation is developed, it may apply for provisional certification, elect officers, levy and collect dues, handle reproduction and distribution of the WAPR Bulletin, announcements, and other mailings within its country, produce its own national bulletins, finance meetings, and otherwise carry on the activities of a national association as described in the terms of reference for national secretaries. Such associations shall report at least annually to WAPR and be certified every three years as part of WAPR with or without payment of dues and may so advertise themselves. The Board may, for various reasons, choose to break the link between WAPR and any national association, despite orderly payment of dues.

ARTICLE V - POWERS

A. The Assembly shall be the supreme policy-making authority of the association. It shall, at its meeting, decide the general direction of policies and activities, election of Officers and Board of Directors, governance and administration, fiscal affairs, including dues; qualifications for membership; amendments to the Constitution; approval or disapproval of policies and actions of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee; pass upon any Resolution submitted at Assembly meetings, personnel policies and salaries of personnel, and all other matters, which affect the welfare of the Association.

B. The Board of Directors of the Association shall have the power and duty to implement policy decisions mandated by the Constitution and determined by the Assembly, and to provide general guidance to the work of the Association between meetings of the Assembly.

In the event of vacancies occurring through resignation or other reasons among members of the Board or Officers, it shall have the power to designate replacements until the succeeding meeting of the Assembly. Replacement of any Officer, however, shall be from among elected members of the Board of Directors.

C. The Executive Committee, composed of the Officers of the Organization, shall carry out, in between meetings of the Board of Directors, day-to-day operations, policies, actions and recommendations of the Board of Directors, shall prepare fiscal, organizational and programmatic reports for submission to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Officers shall be empowered to engage in fund raising and to execute contracts for the receipt of grants, endowments, contributions, and the performance of projects, and shall prepare biennial budgets for approval by the Assembly.

D. The President shall be the chief officer of the association and shall preside at meetings of the Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, until such time as a new President is elected.

The President is authorized, after consultation with the Executive Committee, to appoint standing and ad hoc committees and task forces of the Association; to determine the number and duties of such committees and designate the chairpersons thereof; to ensure that the chairmen of said committees report systematically to the Executive Committee, and, at least every three years, to the Board of Directors.

E. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect will assume the duties of the President.

F. The Secretary-General shall keep the minutes of all meetings, issue notices of all meetings, be responsible for the maintenance of all records and correspondence , files of membership and all related duties subject to the direction of the President and policies of the Board of Directors.

G. The Treasurer shall be responsible, in cooperation with the President, for the financial management of the Association, shall keep the accounts, collect and disburse funds pursuant to policies determined by the Board of Directors, submit periodic financial reports to the Board of Directors and audited financial reports on the occasion of meetings of the Assembly.

H. Regional Vice Presidents and their Deputies shall have the responsibility to pursue all efforts, in line with the mission of the Association, to strengthen rehabilitative policies and programs within the area of their jurisdiction, improve collaboration between existing organizations, increase membership and affiliations; establish relations with agencies and governmental units in their area, report activities and progress to the Board of Directors, establish such mechanisms as s/he deems useful and appropriate to further the goals of rehabilitation for and with the psychosocially disabled; promote national meetings and organize regional meetings. Regional Vice Presidents provide a report to the President. They should oversee and work in close association with national secretaries of their region.

I. Chairpersons of standing committees shall have the responsibility of organizing the personnel and activities of their committees in line with the specific mandates and guidelines for committee work as determined by the Executive Committee.

J. Officers and Committee Chairpersons are authorized to designate other volunteer assistants to aid them in the performance of their duties, but such persons are not empowered to assume powers reserved to such officers or chairpersons. The President and Board may delegate additional duties to officers and members of the association.

ARTICLE VI - TERMS OF OFFICE

The terms of office of members of the Board of Directors and of Officers shall be for three years succeeding to close of any Biennial Assembly. No member shall be eligible to serve in a given capacity for longer than two consecutive Assembly meetings.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

A. Members in good standing will normally be informed in writing of a meeting of the Assembly at least six months in advance (by the Bulletin or other means) and all members will receive the proposed agenda of such Assembly at least three months in advance of that Assembly.

B. Notice of meetings of the Board of Directors shall be mailed to all Board members at least three months prior to the date of the scheduled meeting and the proposed agenda mailed at least six weeks prior to such Board meetings.

Special emergency meetings may be called upon written notice to all Board members at least four weeks prior to the scheduled date but only at the request of at least one third of the Board members who signify such a request in writing to the President.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

A. The presence of all accredited members attending a meeting of the Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

B. A quorum at a Board of Directors meeting requires the presence of not less than one third of its members.

ARTICLE IX - VOTING

A. All accredited individual members, individual in good standing at Assembly meetings are entitled to one vote. Organizational members may have votes equal to the number produced by dividing the organization's contribution divided by the international dues rate. National associations have votes equal to the number produced by the nation's contribution divided by the international dues rate, adjusted for national income, as determined by the Board. No national association may have more than 200 votes.

B. A majority of the votes of such members, present at an Assembly or at a Board of Directors meeting is necessary to constitute a decision.

C. Voting will be by secret ballot.

D. Proxy Voting

A proxy paper shall be sent out to all individual and organizational members in good standing and to all national associations at least three months prior to the General Assembly, giving clear instructions as to the election procedures and allowing members to vote for candidates of their choice, either through a mail ballot or through a proxy vote given to the chairman of the Elections Proceedings (normally the President) or to the Secretary-General.

E. In order to avoid the Board members changing all at once, at least one quarter of the Board members should voluntarily, or by drawing lots, resign if no natural vacancies have occurred by the time of the elections.

ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS

A. Any member in good standing is eligible to nominate or be nominated for any position or office.

B. Nominations for specific positions an Officer or Member of the Board of Directors may be submitted in writing **to the President / Chair of the Nomination Committee** at least six months prior to the scheduled date of an Assembly meeting.

President / Chair of the Nomination Committee after consultation with committee members will forward his / her recommendations to the Board and then to the Assembly for elections for final decision.

A list of such nominees shall be mailed to all members on record at least three months before the Assembly meetings.

C. Chairs of standing committees shall be nominated by the President in the Board meeting.

C. Committees - The creation of committees is described under Article V, Section D.

Consideration shall be given to the formation of the following operational committees:

- Nomination
- Congress
- Membership
- Constitution
- Ethics & Review
- Publication

D. Task Forces – President may constitute Task forces for some specific tasks during his / her tenure like:

- Research & Training
- Service and Programs
- Relations with Inter-Government and Governmental Agencies; Professional Groups, etc.
- Education and Public Relations
- Legislation

- Advanced Institutes
- Collaborating Centres
- Scientific
- Publication
- Advocacy, with emphasis on families, consumers and voluntary organizations
- Fund Raising

D. Members receiving the highest number of votes for each position of Officer at an Assembly meeting shall be deemed elected to such office, such Office thereby being also a member of the Board of Directors, in accordance with Article IV of these ByLaws.

Members receiving the highest number of votes, other than Officers, for membership to the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have been elected.

E. Any request by an individual member of organizational representative member to have his/her vote recorded in the Minutes as affirmative, negative, or not voting on any matter before the Assembly, before the Board of Directors, or before the Executive Committee shall be honoured.

ARTICLE XI - FINANCES

A. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

B. Dues should be paid once each year according to rates and schedules determined by the Board. Dues payments may be made during any session of the Assembly.

C. Dues shall be payable in US Dollars or other convertible currency, to an amount determined by the Assembly on recommendation by the Board. National associations may set their own dues rates.

D. The Financial Records of the Association shall be audited at least every three years by independent auditors or accountants selected by the Board of Directors. The financial report shall be presented at each meeting of the Board of Directors and at each Assembly meeting.

ARTICLE XII - MISCELLANEOUS

A. Incorporation - The Board of Directors is authorized and directed to arrange for the incorporation of the Association as a not-for-profit organization.

B. Compensation - No Officer or other member of the Board of Directors shall receive any payment

whatever for his/her services, but shall be entitled to receive necessary expenses in the performance of his/her duties in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

C. Committees - The creation of committees is described under Article V, Section D.

Consideration shall be given to the formation of the following committees, among others:

- Nomination
- Congress Planning
- Research & Training
- Service and Programs
- Membership and Organization
- Relations with Inter-Government and Governmental Agencies; Professional Groups, etc.
- Education and Public Relations
- Legislation
- Advanced Institutes
- Collaborating Centers
- Scientific
- Publication
- Advocacy, with emphasis on families, consumers and voluntary organizations
- Fund Raising

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT

A. Amendments to the Constitution shall be voted on at Assembly meetings. Proposals for such amendments may be submitted to the Chair Constitution Committee and Secretary General at least three months prior to an Assembly meeting.

B. Amendments to the Constitution shall require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of votes at an Assembly meeting.

C. Amendments to the Constitution shall be put into effect immediately upon ratification by the Assembly.

ARTICLE XIV - DISSOLUTION

WAPR may be dissolved by an unanimous vote of the officers and Board of Directors, who will also have to agree upon distribution of assets and liabilities, if any. Dissolution of a WAPR national association should be carried out in accordance with the laws of the country in which the national

association is set up.

NOTE 1:

(Amendment in Milano 2012; replace old voting system)

“All accredited individual members, individual in good standing at Assembly meetings are entitled to one vote. Organizational members may have votes equal to the number produced by dividing the organization’s contribution divided by the international dues rate. National associations have votes equal to the number produced by the nation’s contribution divided by the international dues rate, adjusted for national income, as determined by the Board...In relation to the provisions of the Article IX on Voting, the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 29 March 2012 recommended to the General Assembly that the number of votes assigned to the National Associations will be determined by dividing the annual amount of dues paid to WAPR by 5 for the countries considered as ‘low income’, by 10 for the countries considered as ‘lower-middle income’, by 15 for the countries considered as ‘upper-middle income’ and by 25 for the countries considered as ‘high-income’, according to the World Bank classification.”

No country will have more than 200 votes.

NOTE 2:

According to decision by the same Assembly (Milano Nov. 11th 2012) a minimum fee is established for all countries as follows:

Low Income; \$ 50.

Lower middle; \$ 50.

Upper middle; \$ 75.

High; \$ 150.