

STATUTE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

**As amended by the 2017 International Council
Meeting in Rome, Italy, 11–15 August 2017**

VISION AND MISSION

1. Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

CORE VALUES

2. Amnesty International forms a global community of human rights defenders with the principles of international solidarity, effective action for the individual victim, global coverage, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, impartiality and independence, and democracy and mutual respect.

METHODS

3. Amnesty International addresses governments, intergovernmental organizations, armed political groups, companies and other non-state actors. Amnesty International seeks to disclose human rights abuses accurately, quickly and persistently. It systematically and impartially researches the facts of individual cases and patterns of human rights abuses. These findings are publicized, and members, supporters and staff mobilize public pressure on governments and others to stop the abuses.

In addition to its work on specific abuses of human rights, Amnesty International urges all governments to observe the rule of law, and to ratify and implement human rights standards; it carries out a wide range of human rights educational activities; and it encourages intergovernmental organizations, individuals, and all organs of society to support and respect human rights.

MOVEMENT STRUCTURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4. Amnesty International is a people's movement based on global voluntary membership; the global membership is represented by Amnesty International's membership entities (sections and structures) and its international members.
5. Amnesty International is accountable to all who benefit from the fulfilment of its Vision and Mission and to its members, activists, and supporters worldwide.
6. Amnesty International's global structure is as follows. The Global Assembly, the highest decision-making body, is made up of representatives from the membership entities and from the international members. The Global Assembly elects the International Board; the International Board and the global work of the movement are supported by the International Secretariat. The membership entities, the international members and the International Board are all accountable to the Global Assembly and must comply with this Statute and global strategy, policies and other requirements approved by the Global Assembly in its decisions including the Vision, Mission and Core Values, the Strategic Goals (the agreed priorities which guide the work of the movement) and the Core Standards (the movement's core governance and operational standards).
7. This Statute sets out the global governance framework at the highest level. It is supplemented by the Global Governance Regulations. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Statute and the Global Governance Regulations or other related documents the provisions of this Statute will take precedence.

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

8. The Global Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the movement. It:
 - a. *approves global strategy that enables the delivery of the Vision and Mission including the Strategic Goals;*
 - b. *elects, oversees and has the power to dismiss the International Board;*
 - c. *approves changes to this Statute, including to the Vision, Mission and Core Values and to the movement's associated governance procedures including the Global Governance Regulations, the terms of reference for the Global Assembly's Committees and the related voting rights and procedures;*
 - d. *approves the international financial assessment system;*
 - e. *approves core global requirements guiding the movement's work such as and including the Core Standards;*
 - f. *approves the policy framework on contentious human rights issues;*
 - g. *receives reports and proposals from the International Board and the membership entities and makes decisions in areas within its competence; and*
 - h. *receives reports on the movement's performance including with regard to compliance with global requirements and holds the movement accountable.*
9. The Global Assembly is made up of the following voting representatives: one person from each membership entity and one person from the international members. Those people are the 'standing representatives'.

10. The Global Assembly meets once a year as a regular meeting. Emergency meetings may be called at any time by the International Board, or by a simple majority of the standing representatives.
11. At the regular meetings of the Global Assembly, two people from each membership entity and two people from the international members may join the standing representatives to attend the meeting as non-voting delegates. Additionally one young person from one third of membership entities (on a rotating basis) and one young person from the international members will join regular meetings. At Emergency meetings, membership entities and international members are represented by the standing representatives alone.
12. The Global Assembly elects a chair who serves for a term of two years and may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms.
13. Global Assembly meetings cannot proceed unless more than half of the standing representatives are present or represented.
14. The following standing committees are elected by the Global Assembly to assist its work: the Preparatory Committee, the International Nominations Committee and the Membership Review Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee is a fourth standing committee which assists the work of both the Global Assembly and the International Board. The Finance and Audit Committee is partly elected by the Global Assembly and partly appointed by the International Board.
15. The Global Assembly may dismiss the International Board by dismissing all International Board members simultaneously. In such a case the Global Assembly may also elect new interim International Board members to fill the vacant positions. Where no interim International Board is elected by the Global Assembly, the Chair of the Global Assembly and the International Nominations Committee acting jointly must appoint new interim International Board members such that there are at least five members in total. Interim International Board members serve until the next Global Assembly meeting.
16. The Global Assembly makes decisions by a simple majority vote of votes cast by those present or represented, except for the following decisions which require a two-thirds majority of votes cast by those present or represented:
 - a. *to amend the Statute;*
 - b. *to amend the Global Governance Regulations;*
 - c. *to amend the financial assessment model or other aspects of financial distribution between membership entities and other movement entities;*
 - d. *to dismiss the International Board and the committees of the Global Assembly;*
 - e. *to dismiss the Chair of the Global Assembly; and*
 - f. *to confer voting rights at the Global Assembly to any person or entity additional to those in Article 17, pursuant to criteria adopted by the Global Assembly for that purpose.*

VOTING

17. At a meeting of the Global Assembly each membership entity has one vote. International members have, collectively, one vote. Votes are exercised through the standing representatives.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD

18. The International Board reports to and is accountable to the Global Assembly.

19. The International Board provides global stewardship for the fulfilment of the movement's Vision and Mission and its compliance with global policies and standards. It:

- a. *provides proposals for the approval of the Global Assembly including on the international financial assessment system, global governance procedures, global standards and the Strategic Goals;*
- b. *oversees the movement's finances and risks;*
- c. *oversees the protection of the movement's reputation and resources;*
- d. *oversees the work and operations of the International Secretariat including by appointing the Secretary General, approving the International Secretariat's annual audited accounts and budget and appointing its auditors;*
- e. *monitors compliance of all parts of the movement with the provisions of this Statute, the decisions of the Global Assembly and other global policies and standards;*
- f. *approves the establishment of membership entities and other movement entities;*

g. *exercises the functions necessary to implement Article 34 of this Statute; and*

h. *provides reports, at least once a year, to the movement on the budget, the financial position of the movement and of the International Secretariat and on the International Board's work and performance.*

20. The International Board has nine members (including the Treasurer) elected by the Global Assembly from the movement's individual members. Up to two additional members can be appointed by the International Board itself as co-opted members; the co-opted members do not have the right to vote in International Board decisions.

21. The Treasurer is elected by the Global Assembly, directly and separately from the rest of the International Board.

22. Where vacancies arise in the International Board's elected membership between Global Assembly meetings, the International Board may appoint up to two interim members to serve until the next Global Assembly meeting.

23. International Board meetings cannot proceed unless at least five elected members are present. The International Board has a chair whom it elects.

24. The elected members of the International Board serve a term of three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The co-opted members serve a term of two years with a maximum of two terms. The elected members of the International Board may not include more than one member from the same country, state or territory.

SECTIONS

25. Sections carry out the work of the movement in their country, state or territory, including in the areas of campaigning, advocacy, education, public mobilization, media and fundraising.
26. Sections are accountable to local members and work with members, supporters and activists in their country, state or territory.
27. Sections make an annual financial contribution to the work of the movement in accordance with the international financial assessment system approved by the Global Assembly.
28. Sections' plans for research on human rights abuses within their country, state or territory are subject to the oversight and quality control of the International Secretariat.

STRUCTURES

29. Structures carry out the work of the movement in a country, state or territory where there is no section.
30. Structures are accountable to local members and work with members, supporters and activists in their country, state or territory.
31. Structures operate on a temporary basis and with the objective that they will work to become approved as sections.

INDIVIDUAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

32. A person who contributes to and shares the Vision, Mission and Core Values of Amnesty International may become an individual member:
 - a. *by joining a section or structure where they live and paying a membership fee (if applicable) to that section or structure; or*
 - b. *if there is no section or structure where they live by paying a membership fee (if applicable) to the International Secretariat, to become an international member.*

LEAVING THE MOVEMENT

33. Membership entities and international members may voluntarily terminate their membership of the movement at any time and thereby cease all Amnesty International work (including using the Amnesty name and logo) by providing written notice to the International Board; other individual members may terminate their membership at any time by giving notice to the relevant section or structure.
34. The International Board may take measures affecting the membership status of a membership entity or an international member including without limitation termination or suspension of membership, if the International Board considers such action necessary to protect the reputation, integrity or operation of the movement, or because local circumstances make such action necessary. Any such action may be reviewed in accordance with the review procedures of the Membership Review Committee.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

- 35.** The International Secretariat, overseen by the International Board, supports, enables and implements the work and functioning of the movement by:
- a.** *representing the movement externally through the Secretary General;*
 - b.** *co-ordinating and conducting the movement's global human rights work in research, campaigning, communications, advocacy, policy, legal, fundraising, education and other functions as necessary;*
 - c.** *developing global strategy, policies and standards and ensuring their co-ordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and*
 - d.** *supporting movement governance, growth and development and its financial health.*
- 36.** The Secretary General is the chief executive of the International Secretariat, and is appointed by and accountable to the International Board.
- 37.** The International Secretariat manages the global protection and use of the Amnesty International name and logo on behalf of the International Board by registering trademarks and issuing a trademark licence to the membership entities and other movement entities.