



Statute of the Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Austria (United Nations Youth and Student Association)

The Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs (AFA) was founded on 22 January 1991.
In 1995 local branches all over Austria were established with the AFA-Austria as its union.
This Statute enters into force Vienna, 10 March 2005.

Preamble

THE LOCAL COMMITTEES of the Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna;

RESOLVED, to support and to spread the belief in basic Human Rights, in the dignity and the value of human personality and the other ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations;

CONVINCED, of a better realisation of their purposes in a common way;

AIMING, to build a strong basis for the organization and to give clear instructions to future generations;

THEREFORE DECIDE this Statute:

I.) Name, Seat and Sphere of Activity

Article 1. The Association shall be known as Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Austria (United Nations Youth and Student Association) hereinafter AFA-Austria.

AFA-Austria is the union of members of the following branches:

- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Graz (United Nations Youth and Student Association)
- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Innsbruck (United Nations Youth and Student Association)
- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Klagenfurt (United Nations Youth and Student Association)
- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Linz (United Nations Youth and Student Association)
- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Salzburg (United Nations Youth and Student Association)
- Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs - Vienna (United Nations Youth and Student Association)

The above mentioned branches will therefore hereinafter be referred to as AFA-Local Committees.

AFA-Austria is an independent, politically unbiased, non-profit organization run on a voluntary basis. Its seat is Vienna. Its activities concern the Republic of Austria, the co-operation with International Organizations and like-minded national organizations worldwide.

Relations to the United Nations Association of Austria

Article 1a. The AFA-Austria was founded as an independent branch of the United Nations Association of Austria in Vienna and considers itself as its Youth and Student Association. In this capacity the AFA-Austria and the AFA-Local Committees carry the additional name of United Nations Youth and Student Association. The scope of co-operation and the mutual relations between the AFA-Austria and the United Nations Association of Austria in Vienna as well as the relations between the AFA-Local Committees and the regional branches of the United Nations Association of Austria are regulated through agreements between the individual associations. Their legal status remains untouched.

II.) Purpose

Article 2. It is the purpose of the Association,

- (a) to awaken interest in International Relations,
- (b) to carry out activities in the spirit of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies,
- (c) to familiarize Austrian youth, students and graduates with the United Nations Organization,
- (d) to foster their studies and
- (e) especially to realize the principles and purposes of the Austrian Federal Law of Youth Support (Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz).

It supports hereby the equality of States, the realization of the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of trust among peoples.

III.) Means to Realize the Purpose of the Association

Article 3.

(1) Means to realize the purpose of the Association are:

- (a) Organizing and attendance of lectures, discussions, seminars and conferences at home and abroad,
- (b) Attending decision-making processes of fellow organizations (sending delegates to sessions and meetings),

- (c) Simulation conferences, as the Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN),
 - (d) Editing a publication,
 - (e) Setting up of an Internet-Homepage,
 - (f) Study-trips in context with the purposes of the Association,
 - (g) Making scholarships available,
 - (h) Dissemination of ideas in the spirit of the United Nations,
 - (i) Advertising the aims of the Association and supporting the deepening of International Relations,
 - (j) Co-operation with like-minded organizations,
 - (k) Activities in the sense of far-reaching youth work and
 - (l) Setting up of branches and institutes.
- (2) All activities of the AFA-Local Committees as well as the AFA-Austria are being co-ordinated through the Board of AFA-Austria.

Association's Office

- (3) In respect of the financial situation an Association's Office shall be established, where all of the Association's documents shall also be stored.
The Board of the AFA-Austria as well as the Auditors reserve the right to enter the Association's facilities during the office hours set up by the President. A key shall be given to these persons.

Financing

- (4) The revenue consists of:
- (a) Membership fees,
 - (b) Subsidies, financial support and sponsorship agreements,
 - (c) Donations as well as proceeds from inheritances,
 - (d) Proceeds resulting from collections, publications, events or other projects as well as
 - (e) Proceeds resulting from activities taken over from other institutions or persons.

IV.) Membership and AFA-Local Committees

Classification

Article 4.

- (1) **Individual Members** are all Members of the AFA-Local Committees as well as of a branch. Individual Members are represented by the Chairpersons of the AFA-Local Committees or an appointed representative.
(a) Individual Members can also be regarded as members of the United Nations Association of Austria and/or its local branches through agreements with the United Nations Association of Austria and/or its local branches.
- (2) **Ordinary Members** are the AFA-Local Committees. Ordinary Members are represented by the Chairpersons of the AFA-Local Committees or an appointed representative.
- (3) **Extraordinary Members** are Board members during their term of office.
- (4) **Supporting Members** are natural and legal persons that give substantial material support to AFA-Austria.
- (5) **Honorary members** are appointed by the Board as a result of outstanding merits in the spirit of the Association.

Acquisition and Termination

Article 5.

- (1) The acquisition and termination of the Individual Membership shall be determined by the Statutes of the AFA-Local Committees or a branch.
- (2) Before a new Local Committee can be constituted the proposers have to give notice of their intention to the Board of AFA-Austria. Membership begins with the approval of the Statute by the General Assembly (GA) and ceases with the dissolution or the expulsion of the Local Committee.
- (3) Extraordinary Membership of persons who were elected to the Board of the Association corresponds to their term of office.
- (4) The membership of Supporting Members starts with a supporter's contract.
- (5) An Honorary Membership is only to be gained through the prior decision of the Board and has to be formally accepted by the corresponding person.

Rights and Duties of the Associations' Members

Article 6.

Members have the duty to support the aims of the Association, to uphold the interests and principles of the Association as well as to pay the membership fee which can be set by the General Assembly (GA)..

- (1) Individual Members reserve the right to participate at all activities of the AFA-Austria (including GAs) and all AFA-Local Committees.
- (2) The right to vote at the GA is given only to Ordinary Members. The Ordinary Membership authorizes and obligates to carry the name of the Association and the Association's insignia as well as the whole corporate design. After the passing of a resolution by an AFA-Local Committee all changes to the Statute of an AFA-Local Committee are in need of an approval by the Board of AFA-Austria. The AFA-Austria reserves the right to be informed of changes in the composition of the Board of an AFA-Local Committee. Permission from the Board of AFA-Austria is required for the distribution of

function titles. Applications for subsidies from Federal Institutions of the Republic of Austria by an AFA-Local Committee are only permitted upon agreement with the Board of AFA-Austria.

Applications in accordance with the Austrian Federal Law of Youth Support (Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz) are reserved to AFA-Austria. AFA-Local Committees reserve the right to apply for allocations of eventual federal sources at the GA.

V.) Organs of the Association

Article 7. The Organs of the Association are:

- (a) the Board
- (b) the General Assembly (GA)
- (c) the Auditors
- (d) the Court of Arbitration

The Organs can set their own standing orders, which must be approved by the GA.

A.) The Board

Composition and Convocation

Article 8. The Board consists of

- (a) the President,
- (b) the Vice-President - Finance,
- (c) up to five additional members.

The Board is elected by the GA. Eligible for election are all natural persons. Re-election is permitted. The term of office of the Board is two years. If a Board Member leaves the Board, the Board can appoint a replacement member effective until the next GA. Furthermore the Board is entitled to call in any persons for consultations. Board Meetings are called by the President or, if he or she is unable to do so, by the Vice-President - Finance. Alternatively, a Board Meeting must be called if at least two Board Members request it. The President chairs the Meeting, if he or she is unable to do so, the Vice-President - Finance will. The Board has a quorum, if all Members have been invited in writing, by e-mail, by phone or in person and at least two thirds of the Board Members are present. In general it takes its decisions with a simple majority. In case of a tied vote the President's vote decides. In the case in which only two Board Members are present in accordance with the Statute, unanimity is required. Applications to the GA for the expulsion of members, appointments of replacement members as well as decisions regarding financial compensation for expenditures due to the activity as Board Member require unanimity.

Range of Tasks

Article 9. The Board is responsible for the direction of the Association. It is entrusted with all tasks that are not delegated to another organ by the Statute. Inter alia, its competence comprises the following issues:

- (a) preparation of GAs
- (b) convocation of GAs
- (c) co-ordination of activities of the single AFA-Local Committees
- (d) representation of the Association at international umbrella organizations
- (e) preparation of the Budget as well as preparation of the report of activities and the financial conclusion
- (f) administration of the Association's assets
- (g) issuing of the Associations' publications
- (h) appointing of the Editor-in-chief and Secretary Generals
- (i) building up and fostering of international relations

Tasks of the Individual Board Members

Article 10.

- (1) The President represents the Association externally vis-a-vis public authorities and third parties. Board Meetings as GAs are to be called and chaired by him/her. He/she is responsible for the orderly handling of financial affairs and is liable vis-a-vis debtors. In case he/she is not available he/she is represented by the Vice-President - Finance.
- (2) The Vice-President - Finance must assist the President in his/her handling of the Association's affairs and finances and must represent him/her in case he/she is not available.
- (3) Further tasks and tasks of possible further members are distributed by the Board itself on the President's proposal or can be regulated through the Standing Order in a binding manner.
- (4) Valid executions of contracts, resolutions and announcements of the Association require the signature of the President. Decrees about the Association's funds require the signature of two Board Members.

Special Projects

Article 11. Leaders of special projects are called Secretary Generals; they are appointed through a unanimous decision of the Board. Special projects are Austrian and international events which require extraordinary organizational measures. It is the task of the Secretary General to put together a project team and to report to the GA about his/her activity. The GA can expel a Secretary General from his/her office with a two thirds majority. Otherwise he/she remains in his/her position until the final conclusion of the project. The project ends with the approval of the final report by the GA. The financial management of special projects is the responsibility of the President, who, however, can delegate these tasks to the Vice-President - Finance or a member of the project team.

Association's Publication

Article 12. The Editor in Chief is appointed through a unanimous decision of the Board. It is the task of the Editor in Chief to put together an editorial staff, to guarantee the objectivity, the independence and the non-political character of the publication and to report to the GA about his/her activity. The GA can expel the Editor in Chief from his/her office with a two thirds majority. Otherwise he/she stays in office until the appointment of a new Editor in Chief. The name of the publication can only be changed by a unanimous decision of the Board on the suggestion of the Editor in Chief. The financial management of the publication is the responsibility of the President, who, however, can delegate these tasks to the Vice-President - Finance or a member of the editorial team.

B.) The General Assembly (GA)

Convocation and Resolutions

Article 13. The GA is the highest organ of AFA-Austria. In general it is chaired by the President. An ordinary General Assembly must take place at least every two years. The date of the respective next meeting is to be decided by a resolution of the GA. All members are entitled to participate at the GA. All ordinary members must be invited to the GAs in writing, by e-mail, by phone or in person at least two weeks in advance. The GA must be convened by the Board and must include a provisional agenda. An extraordinary GA must be convened within four weeks upon receipt of a request by the Board, one third of all members or by the Auditors. Valid decisions in an extraordinary GA can only be taken on items included in the provisional agenda. The GA is able to make decisions if at least half of the members are present. Each Ordinary Member has one vote. Decisions of the GA generally require a simple majority. In case of a tied vote the President's vote will be decisive. In case of a resignation or otherwise separation of the whole Board the Auditors elected for the current term of office must convene an extraordinary GA within four weeks and must schedule new elections for that GA. In the case of the further resignation of the Auditors or in case of any other inability of the Board to function, the oldest Board member of an AFA-Local Committee shall take over all matters and convene an extraordinary GA within four weeks. The chairing of the GA can be delegated by the President to another person by the passing of a resolution. Minutes of the sessions of the GA must be taken.

Increased Quori

Article 14. The following decisions require the presence of two thirds of the members and a two thirds majority of the given votes:

- (a) changing of this Statute
- (b) financial affairs (for example: setting up a membership fee)
- (c) dissolution of the Association
- (d) removal from office of the Members of the Board, Secretary Generals and the Editor-in-chief
- (e) expulsion of Ordinary Members (Local Committees), whereby the member to be expelled is not included and has no right to vote

Tasks

Article 15. The GA has the following tasks:

- (a) approval of the Statute (admission) of Ordinary Members (Local Committees); expulsion of Ordinary Members
- (b) deciding upon the agenda of the GA
- (c) election and removal from office of the Members of the Board and the Auditors
- (d) removal from office of the Editor-in-chief and the Secretary Generals
- (e) receipt and approval of the financial reports and statements in co-operation with the Auditors, decision on the Budget and discharge by the Board thereof.
- (f) changing of this Statute
- (g) voluntary dissolution of the Association
- (h) decision about setting up a membership fee and determination of the amount thereof
- (i) approval of the Standing Orders
- (j) denial of Honorary Memberships

The GA has the right to be informed about the financial reports and statements of the individual Local Committees.

Elections

Article 16. Elections are generally held openly. If requested by an Ordinary Member, then with secret ballot. In case of wedged votes the lot decides. In this process the chair has no active role.

Applications

Article 17. Applications for the ordinary GA are to be sent to the Board, who must accept them up to five days before begin of the GA.. These are to be sent to the Boards of the AFA-Local Committees immediately and not later than two days before the begin of the GA.

C.) Auditors

Article 18. The two Auditors of AFA-Austria may be natural or legal persons. Natural persons are not allowed to have a function on the Board of an AFA-Local Committee or in AFA-Austria during their term of office. The term of office corresponds to that of the Board. Their decisions are made unanimously only. The auditors have the obligation to control the actual financial matters and the final account statements and reports of AFA-Austria with a view to ensuring frugality, economy and efficiency. Furthermore the Auditors have the right to inspect the financial matters of the AFA-Local Committees. They have the duty to report about the financial control and corresponding inspections at each ordinary or extraordinary GA.

D.) Court of Arbitration

Article 19. Internal disputes in matters related to the Association will be decided internally and conclusively by an Internal Court of Arbitration of the Association. Within eight days of notification by any other party, a party to a dispute must elect an arbitrator among the members of the Local Committees. In the event of failure to do so he/she will be appointed by the Board. Both arbitrators will appoint a chairperson among the chairpersons of the Local Committees within a further eight days. If they cannot reach an agreement it will be decided by lot. The Court of Arbitration of the Association will decide internally and conclusively with a simple majority of all its members present.

VI.) Dissolution

Article 20. The voluntary dissolution of the Association can only be attained by an extraordinary GA convened for exactly that purpose only. In case of dissolution the Association's assets shall be transferred to the United Nations Association of Austria.

VIII.) Transition Regulations

Article 21. This Statute enters into force according to Austrian Law. The organs appointed by the statute of 14. June 2003 stay in their term of office until the next scheduled GA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the President signed this Statute and stamped it with the Association's insignia.

RESOLVED in Vienna on 10 March 2005

English version authorized by the President of AFA-Austria:

Vienna, 3 April 2006

(Michael F. PFEIFER)