

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY UNION (WAU)

I. Composition

- 1) The World Anthropology 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 (clauses VII(1) and VII(4)); plus
 - b. all paid-up Associational Members of the WCAA that constitute the WCAA chamber (clause VII(2)).
- 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.

II. Changes to the Constitution

- 1) 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 Associational Members.
- 2) All formal proposals for amending the Constitution will require approval of a sixty percent majority vote of the WAU Constituency.
- 3) Proposals for amendment of the Constitution must be circulated to all WAU Constituency members at least two months prior to a vote being taken.

III. Operational Guidelines and Rules

- 1) This Constitution is supplemented by administrative Operational Guidelines and Rules, as approved by the WAU Constituency.
- 2) 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.
 - i. Proposals for amending the Operational Guidelines and Rules require a simple majority vote in the WAU Constituency for approval.
 - ii. 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.

IV. Dissolution

- 1) 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 council.

- i. 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.

V. **Goals, aims and objectives**

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

- 1) To represent Anthropologies and Ethnologies at a global and international level.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) To provide a growing range of tangible and intangible benefits to anthropologists/ethnologists and their associations around the world.
- 6) To promote Anthropology/Ethnology in regions and countries where the discipline is developing or where anthropologists/ethnologists have no representative bodies.
- 7) To promote communication, collaborations and cooperation worldwide so as to strengthen research capacity and teaching within the discipline.
- 8) 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.
- 9) To facilitate, through Scientific Commissions and cooperation between Associational Members, research networking and active scientific collaboration among individuals in different parts of the world.
- 10) To stimulate co-operation among all scientific and professional organisations and institutions devoted to promoting this field of knowledge
- 11) To facilitate global gatherings of anthropologists/ethnologists through hosting a quadrennial (four-yearly) World Anthropology Congress, as well as regular Inter-Congresses and smaller field-specific events, rotating across all geographical regions to ensure a high degree of accessibility.
- 12) 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 or gender.
- 13) 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.
- 14) To promote a growing awareness among the general public of the scope, significance and contemporary relevance of the 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.
- 15) To cooperate informally or formally with other organisations that share in the WAO agenda and are focused on Anthropology, Ethnology and related disciplines,

especially in the social sciences, the humanities, environmental science and human biology.

- 16) 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 Social Science Council, the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Council of Museums and similar organisations.
- 17) To advocate for the appropriate participation and inclusion of anthropologists/ethnologists in international, inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary endeavours to address contemporary challenges.
- 18) 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.

VI. Affiliations of WAU

- 1) Apart from engaging in informal cooperation, WAU may formally affiliate itself with other organisations in a manner consistent with WAU aims and rules.
 - i. 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.
- 2) WAU will, from its inception, formally affiliate with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the International Council for Sciences (ICSU) and the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH).
- 3) WAU will consider formal affiliation with other widely recognised and democratically representative global or international organisations concerned with Anthropologies/Ethnologies or cognate fields.

VII. WAU Membership

- 1) **Individual WAU 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 WAU Membership:
 - i. *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:
 - a) Active or retired professional anthropologists and/or ethnologists.
 - b) Holders of academic degrees in Anthropology/Ethnology whose subsequent professional work contributes to the discipline's development.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Persons who are accepted as members by their national Anthropology/Ethnology associations, societies or unions.
 - ii. *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.

- a) Persons meeting the criteria for individual professional WAU membership are ineligible to apply for or to retain individual student membership status.
- iii. *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.
- a) Rules regarding nomination of Individual Honorary Members appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- b) Honorary membership is life-long unless there is evidence of gross misconduct – see Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- iv. Individual WAU members, together with Scientific Commissions and Group/Corporate members, constitute the IUAES chamber.
- 2) **Associational WAU membership** is open to all and any Anthropology Associations or Societies of Anthropologists anywhere in the world. They include *Professional Anthropology Associations* established as subnational, national, regional and international anthropological and/or ethnological organisations.
- i. Associational WAU members together constitute the WCAA chamber.
- 3) **Scientific Commissions** comprising groups of paid-up individual WAU members who share a common academic or practical interest in a particular field of Anthropology/Ethnology study and who have formed and maintained an active Scientific Commission, according to WAU rules.
- i. Scientific Commissions together constitute the Council of Commissions within the IUAES chamber.
- 4) **Group/corporate membership** is open to all groups, institutions and corporations dedicated to or supportive of Anthropology and/or Ethnology. This excludes Anthropology Associations or Societies of Anthropologists that are eligible for Associational WAU Membership (and would therefore be members of the WCAA chamber). There are the following categories of Group/Corporate Membership:
- i. *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.
- ii. *Special Interest groups*, including organisations or networks concerned with a particular branch of the discipline or topic of inquiry – other than those qualifying as Scientific Commissions.
- iii. *Other groups*, including academic publishers, which, while not meeting the requirements of any of the membership categories defined above, contribute substantially to the discipline or to WAU's work.

VIII. Membership Applications and Terminations

- 1) All present IUAES individual and honorary members, IUAES Scientific Commissions and IUAES Corporate Group members, as well as all present Associational members of the WCAA, will become members of WAU, albeit in their respective chambers.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

- 4) All applications for, and decisions regarding *Group/Corporate Membership* shall follow the rules for such application in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 5) Individual and Group/Corporate Membership of WAU (and thus the IUAES chamber) may be terminated. Reasons and processes for termination appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 6) All applications for *Associational Membership* shall follow the rules for such application as appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 7) Associational Membership of WAU (WCAA chamber) may be terminated. Reasons and processes for termination appear in WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules.

IX. Membership fees

- 1) All Individual and Group/Corporate Membership fees will be payable through a protocol outlined on the WAU website or, if that is technically not possible, by electronic funds transfer to WAU's bank account and administered by WAU's membership administrators.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
- 2) Associational Membership fees will be on a sliding scale and differentiated on the basis of Associational Members' respective incomes.
 - i. A negotiated proportion of the income from such fees, 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 biennial meetings.

X. Rights and Responsibilities of WAU Members

- 1) All Individual Members (professional, honorary or student) have the same and equal rights, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, language, culture, religion or ethnicity or any other arbitrary means of categorisation. They include the right
 - i. to a single vote in the IUAES chamber;
 - ii. to stand for election to the IUAES chamber's Executive Committee (subject to the conditions in the Operational Guidelines and Rules);
 - iii. to nominate other Individual, Honorary or Student Members for election to the IUAES chamber's Executive Committee;
 - iv. to have access to any sections of the WAU website that are restricted to members;
 - v. to receive any WAU Newsletter;
 - vi. to be able to purchase WAU-arranged discounted publications; and
 - vii. to participate in World Congresses, Inter-Congresses and similar WAU-sponsored conferences and events, including those organised by a WAU Scientific Commission, and to do so at a registration fee rate that is significantly lower than that which non-members are charged.
- 3) All Individual and Student members have the same responsibilities and obligations, namely
 - i. to abide by the Constitution and WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules; and
 - ii. Honorary Individual Members excepted, to pay their current annual membership fee in a timely manner.

- 4) All Scientific Commissions have the same rights, responsibilities and obligations. These appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 5) All Group/Corporate Members have the same rights. Each is entitled
 - i. to a single vote in the IUAES chamber
 - ii. To nominate one individual as a candidate in every election for vacant positions in the Executive Committee of the IUAES chamber
 - iii. To make specific requests, proposals and representations to the SC that will ensure that the WAU seriously considers any such representations or requests made by a Group/Corporate member.
- 6) All Group/Corporate members have the responsibility and obligation:
 - i. to abide by the Constitution and WAU's Operational Guidelines and Rules; and
 - ii. to pay a Group/Corporate membership fee as stipulated in Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 7) All Associational Members have the same and equal rights, other than in respect of their right to participate (vote) in WAU Constituency decisions. (See clause X,7,i below) Each Associational Member is entitled:
 - i. If such Associational Member is fully up-to-date with its WAU membership fees, to a single vote in the WCAA chamber within the WAU Constituency.
 - ii. To nominate individuals as candidates in every election for vacant positions in the WCAA chamber's Organising Committee (OC).
 - iii. To participate in all decision making and elections concerning the WCAA chamber, including the right to make specific requests, proposals and representations to the OC.
- 8) All Associational Members have the responsibility and obligation
 - i. to abide by the Constitution and the WAU Operational Guidelines and Rules;
 - ii. to pay an Associational Membership contribution as per the sliding scale described in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - iii. strongly to encourage their own individual members to participate actively in the work of WAU, through the Scientific Commissions and at its Congresses and Inter-Congresses, and thus to become Individual Members of WAU.
- 9) Associational Membership of WAU does not confer automatically on any individual who is a member of an Associational Member of the WCAA the WAU membership rights and benefits to which Individual WAU Members are entitled.

XI. Governance of the World Anthropology Union

- 1) Governance of WAU shall be through the following bodies and structures, the purpose of which shall be to realise and, when necessary, to review the aims, purpose and objectives of WAU, as well as its administrative and governance structures.
- 2) 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:
 - i. The *IUAES chamber*, in which the supreme decision-making body is a General Assembly comprising all paid-up Individual, Scientific Commission and Group/Corporate Members of the WAU who together form a distinct section of the WAU Constituency.
 - a) The IUAES chamber elects its own Executive Committee in a manner and of a composition described in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
 - b) The IUAES chamber will include a Council of Commissions comprising all the Scientific Commissions.

- c) Further governance procedures of the IUAES chamber, including those of the Council of Commissions, appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- ii. The *WCAA chamber*, in which the supreme decision-making body is the World Council comprising all Associational Members of the WAU who together form a distinct section of the WAU Constituency.
- a) The WCAA chamber elects its own Organising Committee in a manner and of a composition described in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- b) Further governance procedures of the WCAA chamber appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- 3) These subsidiary functional chambers and their respective executives will serve as the first point of call for issues and activities concerning, respectively
- i. IUAES: the Individual, the Scientific Commission and the Group/Corporate Members of WAU; and
- ii. WCAA: the Associational Members of WAU.
- 4) In order to support and reinforce the unity of WAU the structure detailed here must be reviewed and revised within three years of adoption of the present Constitution, 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.
- 5) WAU's sovereign decision-making body is the *WAU Constituency*. 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.
- All voting within the WAU Constituency will, for the present, 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%.
- i. Details of this arrangement appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- ii. This 50:50 provision will be reviewed and revised by the SC at least once every two years in order to reflect any significant growth or attrition in the overall and relative numbers of Individual, Scientific Commission and Group/Corporate Members, on the one hand, and Associational Members, on the other, and thus to reflect how that may impact on the relative significance of either chamber. Any changes to these weightings must be recorded in the Operational Guidelines and Rules and reported immediately (electronically) to the WAU Constituency.
- 6) The *Steering Committee* (SC) is the WAU executive and is responsible for the day-to-day management of WAU.
- i. Details regarding the composition of the SC and election of its members appear in the Operational Guidelines and Rules.
- ii. A WAU Financial Coordinator, appointed by the SC, coordinates the finances of WAU although those are managed directly by the Treasurers of the IUAES and WCAA respectively, each chamber retaining its own treasury.
- 7) The WAU Constituency is required to assemble physically in a WAU Constituency Meeting at least once every four years at the quadrennial (four-yearly) World Anthropology Congress, and the SC may call for additional WAU Constituency Meetings at any Inter-Congress.
- 8) 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.

- 10) All proposals to be considered by the WAU Constituency must be supported by at least sixty percent of the SC or by ten percent of the Individual, Scientific Commission and Group/Corporate WAU Members supported by at least ten percent of the paid-up Associational Members.