



# World YWCA

**Member Association  
Constitution Review  
Policy and Process**

Approved/World YWCA Board/March 2013

## Background

In 2007 the World YWCA Constitution was significantly revised and adopted by the World Council. The World YWCA Constitution states clearly the conditions of affiliation of member associations to the World YWCA in article 10. Article 10h states that “the association shall have a constitution approved by the World YWCA.”

In articles 89 & 90 of the Constitution, it is stated that during the transitional phase after adopting the Constitution member associations will have the same or equivalent membership status as under the constitution of 2007 until their membership status is changed pursuant to the revised Constitution.

The World YWCA Board decided that in the period between 2007 and 2011 member associations would be given time to adapt to the new Constitution. At World Council 2011 only 2 member associations requested a change of status. In this period, the Standards of Good Management and Accountability (SGMA) assessment tool was used by over half of our member associations. The data of this assessment gives us insight into the health of our movement.

## Purpose

The purpose of reviewing the member association constitutions is to ensure that the member associations comply with the conditions of affiliation to the World YWCA and operate consistently with the Standards of Good Management and Accountability.

In the quadrennium 2011-2015 and 2015-2019, the World YWCA will continue working with the member associations to be able to meet the conditions of affiliation and to be in substantial compliance with the SGMA.

In preparation for World Council 2019 all member association constitutions will be reviewed, which may result in change of membership status according to the criteria in the World YWCA Constitution.

### **The processes for review and approval of constitutions of member associations**

There are two situations involving review and approval of constitutions of member associations:

- Firstly, when a member association wishes to amend its constitution.
- Secondly, when changes are made to respond to the World YWCA Constitution and the status of membership will be reviewed.

#### Process for reviewing amendments in the member association's constitution

- A member association who wants to amend its constitution is encouraged to submit its proposed amendments to the World YWCA before its general assembly.
- World YWCA staff review the proposed amendments for compliance with the World YWCA Constitution within a period of two months time.
- When the amendment has been passed in the general assembly of the member association, the new constitution will be sent to the World YWCA.
- The Member Association Support and Affiliation Committee ("Committee") will review the final version of the amendment and will make a recommendation to the World Board for (dis)approval of the constitution.
- The member association is sent a formal letter about the (dis)approval by the World YWCA.

#### Process for reviewing member associations' constitutions due to revised World YWCA Constitution

- World YWCA staff will provide a template to assess the constitution.
- Member associations fill out the template and return this to World YWCA staff.
- The returned templates will be reviewed by World YWCA staff.
- The staff makes a recommendation to the Committee on the status of the member associations.
- The Committee reviews the recommendations and makes a recommendation to the World Board
  - to approve or not to approve the constitution; or
  - to recommend a change of status; and/or
  - makes a recommendation to the World YWCA to work with the member association to satisfy the conditions of affiliation of the World YWCA Constitution.
- The World YWCA sends a letter to the member association regarding its membership status following the review of the constitution.

Amended in accordance with feedback from the World Board on 12 October 2012. To be reviewed in 2016.

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