

STATUTES

I. Nature of the Union

Art. 1.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL (UISG) is an ecclesial body of pontifical right, which brings together superiors general of women religious institutes dedicated to apostolic works, and societies of apostolic life, according to the norms of Canon 708 of the Code of Canon Law. Established by the Sacred Congregation of Religious in 1965 (which became the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and of Societies of Apostolic Life, CICLSAL, in 1988), the Union has its headquarters in Rome. It is recognized by the Italian Government as a juridical body (10 December 1971). It is registered as no. 654 1.987.

II. Aim and Mission

Art. 2.

The UISG constitutes an international forum where women superiors general find a meeting point in an ecclesial setting:

- a) to manifest the charismatic identity of apostolic religious life and foster its development in the Church and in the world;
- b) to pool experiences, exchange information and promote social and religious communication;
- c) to reflect upon the challenges of the times and search for adequate responses, always respecting the autonomy, nature and spirit of each institute;
- d) to augment relations with the Apostolic See, in particular to maintain links of collaboration, coordination and dialogue with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) and to have contacts with other dicasteries which have a specific competence with regard to the life and mission of the various institutes and societies of the members of the UISG; the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP) and the Congregation for the Oriental Churches;
- e) to express solidarity, collaborate in projects of general interest and strengthen bonds of communion.

III. Membership

Art. 3.

1. All superiors general of religious institutes of women dedicated to apostolic works and societies of apostolic life, whether of pontifical or diocesan right, are personally entitled to be members.
2. To render effective her right to belong to the UISG, each superior general expresses her desire for membership in the manner foreseen in the Directives.

3. The status of a member, with the rights inherent to it, cannot be transferred to others, either through an act between living persons or through death; nor can it be made the pretext of monetary or patrimonial gain.

IV. General Organization and Basic Legislation

Art. 4.

1. The UISG has the following structures of organization and operation:

- a) Constellations (VI)
- b) Plenary Assembly (VII)
- c) Council of Delegates (VIII)
- d) Board of Directors (IX)
- e) The Extended Board (Art. 19)
- f) The Financial Committee (X)
- g) The Secretariat (XII)

2. The Statutes, drawn up in consultation with the members of the UISG, are approved by the two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the Council of Delegates and ratified by CICLSAL.

3. The Directives are an organic instrument for the implementation of the Statutes; they are discussed at the Council of Delegates and approved by the two-thirds majority vote of the members present. By this approval they enter into immediate effect.

V. Relations of Communion

with the Apostolic See

Art. 5.

In conformity with its origin, aim and mission, the UISG maintains relations of mutual confidence with the Apostolic See. The Union voices the concerns and interests of its members to the appropriate dicasteries and, in turn, communicates to its members the concerns and orientations of the dicasteries, especially of CICLSAL, always seeking to be an agent of communion within the Universal Church and within the particular churches.

with the Union of Superiors General

Art. 6.

With the Union of Superiors General, the UISG maintains a relation of partnership and of collaboration in joint Commissions and joint initiatives.

with conferences of religious

Art. 7.

The UISG seeks to foster relations of intercommunication with Conferences, Unions and Confederations at National, Regional or Continental level respecting their autonomy and retaining its own identity and autonomy as a union of persons.

with other ecclesial or non-ecclesial organizations

Art. 8.

The UISG is open to reciprocal exchanges with other ecclesial or non-ecclesial organizations, which pursue objectives in harmony with its own aim and mission.

VI Constellations

Art. 9.

In order to facilitate communication, exchange and mutual support, the superiors general are gathered in Constellations where, in every continent, they incarnate the aim and mission of the Union as specified in Art. 2 of the Statutes and the UISG Directives.

VII. Plenary Assembly

nature and composition

Art. 10.

The Plenary Assembly is a body for consultation, animation and reflection at an international level. It is open to all those who are members of the Union, according to the terms of Art. 3.

convocation

Art. 11.

The President convokes the Plenary Assembly every three years. With the agreement of the Board of Directors, the President may convoke an Extraordinary Plenary Assembly.

functions

Art.12.

The objectives of the Plenary Assembly are:

- a) the study of themes of current interest to religious life at the international level;
- b) consultation on questions related to the life and mission of the UISG in the Church and in the world.

VIII. Council of Delegates

nature and composition

Art. 13.

1. The Council of Delegates is a body of discernment, deliberation, decision and action:

- a) it is responsible for the legislation of the Union, in conformity with Art.4 §2,3;
- b) it is at the service of communion and is a vehicle of communication;
- c) it is an agent of collaboration, exchange and mutual support.

2. The Council of Delegates is composed of the members of the Board of Directors and the Delegates elected in and by the Constellations, in conformity with the UISG Directives.

convocation and quorum

Art. 14.

1. The Council of Delegates is convoked by the President twice during the course of a triennium. With the agreement of the Board of Directors, the President may convoke an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Delegates.

2. The presence of at least two-thirds of its members is required for the validity of its sessions.

3. The two-thirds majority vote of the members present at its sitting is required for the approbation or modification of the Statutes and of the Directives of the Union, in conformity with Art.4 § 2,3.

4. The absolute majority vote of the members present at its sitting is required for the validity of its other decisions.

functions

Art. 15.

The principal functions of the Council of Delegates are:

- a) election of the President and of the Board Members ;
- b) approval of the Statutes and Directives, as well as their possible modification, in conformity with Art. 4 §2,3 of the Statutes;
- c) practical interpretation of the Statutes and Directives;
- d) approval of the Annual Financial Report, previously reviewed by the Board of Directors;
- e) determination of orientations and a plan of action for the triennium;
- f) adoption of all decisions concerning the extraordinary administration of the Union.

The Council of Delegates may fulfil other functions in accordance with the indications given in the Directives.

IX. Board of Directors

nature and composition

Art. 16.

1. The Board of Directors is the body responsible for ordinary decisions of the Union and for the implementation of resolutions and orientations of the Council of Delegates. It is an important link in the chain of communion and communication with all the levels of the UISG. They are the Board of Trustees of the juridical body.

2. The Board of Directors is composed of the President and seven Board Members elected by the Council of Delegates. Their mandate is three years, renewable once.
3. The Board of Directors will have 2 alternates from the Rome Constellation to be called upon as substitutes. They are elected by the Council of Delegates.

convocation and quorum

Art. 17.

1. The Board of Directors is convoked by the President three times a year and in the case of an emergency.
2. The presence of at least half of its members is required for the validity of its sessions. The favorable vote of the absolute majority of the members of the Board of Directors is required for the validity of its decisions.

functions

Art. 18.

The principal functions of the Board of Directors are:

- a) to appoint the Chairperson of the Finance Committee ;
- b) to appoint the Executive Secretary of the UISG ;
- c) to appoint the Finance Administrator;
- d) to appoint the members of the Finance Committee;
- e) to monitor the Patrimony of the UISG and to be responsible stewards of the goods of the Union;
- f) to study and approve the annual financial report;
- g. to study and approve the annual budget ;
- h) to form "ad hoc" commissions when deemed necessary ;
- i) to ratify the Statutes drawn up by each Constellation, in accordance with the UISG Statutes and Directives ;
- j) to interpret in practice the UISG Statutes and Directives, should this be necessary between two meetings of the Council of Delegates; this interpretation is subject to ratification by the following Council of Delegates;
- k) to make other decisions for the functioning of the UISG in accordance with its Statutes and Directives and the orientation given by the Council of Delegates ;
- l) To nominate the Legal Representative who represents the UISG before third parties and Civil Authorities. The Legal Representative acts under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and is accountable to the Board. The Legal Representative participates at the Board of Directors' meeting when dealing with legal and administrative matters and keeps in contact with the Executive Secretary. The mandate of the Legal Representative is for three years, renewable.
- m) To name two staff members to work with the Executive Secretary as a team.

*composition of the Extended Board***Art. 19**

The Extended Board is a consultative body comprised of the Board of Directors, the Delegates and the Substitutes of the Rome Constellation.

functions

To assist the Board of Directors when matters of great importance arise .

*role and functions of the President***Art. 20.**

1. The President has ultimate responsibility for the organization of the UISG including the Plenary Assembly, the Council of Delegates, the Board of Directors and the Extended Board.
2. The President convokes and presides at the Plenary Assembly, the Council of Delegates, and the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Extended Board.
3. The President has final responsibility for the activities of the "ad hoc" commissions established by the Board of Directors.
4. The President officially represents the UISG before canonical authorities and acts in its name.

*replacement of the President***Art. 21.**

1. At official functions, in case of necessity, the President may delegate one of the Board Members or the Executive Secretary to represent her.
2. In the event of her death, resignation, cessation of her mandate as superior general, or other reason which would prevent the President from fulfilling her functions, the Vice-President replaces her.

*role and function of the Board Members***Art. 22.**

The Board Members share responsibility with the President for all that concerns the good functioning of the Union.

*replacement of a Board Member***Art. 23.**

In the event of her death, resignation, cessation of her mandate as superior general, or other reason which would prevent a Board Member from fulfilling her function, the Board of Directors appoints a replacement, chosen among the alternates to complete the mandate.

X. Finance Committee

appointment, role and functions of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee

Art. 24

the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee is appointed by the members of the Board of Directors from among the General Treasurers of the Rome Constellation and is accountable to the Board of Directors. She participates in the Board meetings when dealing with financial matters. Her mandate is for three years, renewable.
2. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee has responsibility for the overall financial administration of the Union and of its Patrimony. She is assisted by a Finance Committee whose members are appointed by the Board of Directors.

appointment, role and functions of the Finance Administrator

Art. 25.

1. The Finance Administrator is appointed by the Board of Directors and is a member of the Finance Committee.
2. She has immediate responsibility for the administration of the goods of the Union and the upkeep of its property.
3. She attends to the day-to-day affairs of the Union and is responsible for the maintenance of the building and the equipment.
4. She seeks advice from experts.
5. She works in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Finance Committee.
6. She is accountable to the Executive Secretary and the Finance Committee Chairperson.
7. She presents an annual financial report to the Board of Directors.

appointment, role, functions and term of office of the Finance Committee

Art 26

1. The Members of the Finance Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors.
2. They serve as advisors to the Finance Administrator
3. They study the annual budget and investments and verify the accounts of UISG.
4. They serve as advisors to the Board of Directors on matters regarding the monitoring of the Patrimony of the Union
5. The term of office for each member is three years renewable

XI. Financing

Art. 27.

The UISG provides for its ordinary operational expenses by means of the annual membership fees paid by its members. The Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee determines the amount of these fees and the modalities for payment.

The UISG may increase its income through the Administration of its Patrimony, by soliciting donations or by other means.

However, it is prohibited to distribute any contingent budget surplus deriving in any way from an excess of balance between income and expenses or between costs and revenue, including funds, reserve and capital, for as long as UISG exists, unless such designation or distribution is imposed by law.

XII. Secretariat

appointment, role and functions of the Executive Secretary

Art 28

The Board of Directors appoints the Executive Secretary. She participates in all meetings of the Board of Directors, but without the right to vote. She is accountable to the Board of Directors. Her mandate is for three years renewable no more than twice.

Art 29

1. The Executive Secretary has particular responsibility for the organization at UISG headquarters, its staff and the day-to-day administration and services provided.
2. The Executive Secretary designates the permanent staff at UISG headquarters.
3. The Executive Secretary works and makes decisions regarding the life of the Secretariat with a team of two staff members named by the Board of Directors.
4. The Executive Secretary, in addition to the President, represents the Union in ordinary circumstances. When delegated by the President, she may also represent the Union at official functions or meetings.
5. Between meetings, the Executive Secretary carries out the policies and decisions of the Board of Directors.
6. At regular Board meetings, the Executive Secretary informs the Board of Directors of the running of the Secretariat and submits proposals as needed.

support services provided at UISG headquarters

Art 30

The support services are provided by the Staff, which is composed of religious and laypersons, who collaborate in carrying out the aims and objectives of the Union under the direction of the Executive Secretary.

XIII. Dissolution of the Union

Art 31

In the event of the Dissolution of the Union (for reasons see C L 20):

The Board of Directors presents to the Council of Delegates the proposal for the Dissolution of the Union.

The Council of Delegates votes the decision and the President presents to the Holy See the petition for the Dissolution of the Union.

The two-thirds majority vote of the members present is required for the validity of the vote.

The Patrimony of the Union will be transferred to an Organization or Association with goals analogous to those of the UISG.

In this matter Canon Law must be followed.

Voted at the Assembly of Delegates in Rome on the 13th May 2007

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