

Statutes of the cfd Association

Art. 1 Name and registered office

The cfd is an association within the meaning of ZGB (Civil Code), Art. 60ff with registered office in Berne. It is an apolitical and non-denominational, non-governmental organisation established in the public interest.

Art. 2 Aim and purpose

The cfd is a feminist peace organisation. It is active in international cooperation, migration policy and peace policy. It is guided by the vision of a good life for all people, regardless of gender, origin and religion and adheres to the traditions of thought and faith which promote the cause of justice. Based on a broad interpretation of the concept of peace, it advocates equal rights and equality of access to resources and to the public space and also to political and social participation. The cfd makes a critical appraisal of the political function of received ideas about gender, culture and origin. It analyses, from the feminist perspective, the background to violence in war and everyday life, together with discursive segregation and substantive exclusion.

The cfd develops concepts, policies and projects to overcome relationships of domination and violence and ideologies which cement such relationships.

The cfd is an empowerment centre for citizens and migrants, co-workers and project partners, engaged and interested persons who help to shape its form and content through their debates.

Art. 3 Areas of work of the cfd

Empowerment of women: the cfd launches and supports empowerment projects in the migration context of Switzerland and the Mediterranean area.

Promotion of peace: the cfd develops principles for the prevention of violence and avoidance of civil conflicts from the feminist perspective.

Critical public relations: the cfd deconstructs discourse based on hegemony which generates exclusion through gender, religion and origin and legitimises violence. It strengthens the representation of women, their visions, interests and demands.

Exchange and networking: the cfd promotes transnational and transdisciplinary exchanges on gender and empowerment and also on approaches to, and the practice of, feminist peace policy and participates in the development of basic principles. It cooperates with feminist, peace policy and church organisations and groups.

Art. 4 Membership

The members of the cfd are individual women and men, while group members are organisations which support the goals of the cfd. Joining is effected by payment of the membership contribution. Membership expires by voluntary departure following a written declaration of resignation to take effect at the end of the current calendar year or upon an application by the Executive for exclusion to be decided by the Assembly of Members. The membership contribution is set by the Assembly of Members. It amounts to CHF 80 per year and, for persons with low income, CHF 40.

Art. 5 Official bodies of the cfd

5.1 Assembly of Members

The Assembly of Members is convened at least once each year by the Executive. At least 100 members may ask for an extraordinary Assembly of Members to be held. The Assembly is convened in writing giving at least two weeks advance notice and stating the items on the agenda. All members, including organisations, have one vote in the Assembly of Members. The Assembly of Members has a quorum when it has been convened in compliance with the conditions set out in the statutes. When votes are taken, a simple majority of the votes cast by the members present will suffice; in the event of a tied vote, the chairperson shall decide, i.e. as a rule the President of the Association or, if he/she is unable to attend, a different member of the Executive. Amendments to the statutes require a two-thirds majority of the members present. Minutes of the decisions taken by the Assembly of Members shall be written.

Tasks of the Assembly of Members:

- election of the members of the Executive;
- election of the President of the Association;
- election of the Auditors;
- approval of the annual report and annual financial statements;
- exclusion of members at the request of the Executive.

Elections to renew the appointments are held once every four years.

5.2 Executive

The Executive consists of the President of the Association and 5 to 9 members, together with a representative elected by the staff who shall have the right to vote. A majority of the members of the Executive shall be women.

The Executive works on a voluntary basis.

The Executive has a quorum if one-half of its members are present. Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the members of the Executive who are present.

The Executive is responsible for implementing the goals formulated in the mission statement.

It shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Its tasks include in particular:

- convening the Assembly of Members and adoption of the agenda;
- approval of the annual planning and budget;
- approval of the mission statement;
- medium-term planning;
- election of the Chief Executive Officer;
- rules on authority to sign;
- assent to the sale and purchase of real property;
- approval of the remuneration system.

5.3 Auditors

The Auditors of the cfd shall consist of two individuals. A legal person (e.g. an audit company) may also be elected.

The Auditors are elected by the Assembly of Members for two years; re-election is permitted. In exceptional cases, the Assembly of Members may authorize the Executive to proceed to this election for one year. The Auditors shall present the audit report to the Assembly of Members. It may make sample verifications of the accounts of the Association in the course of the year.

Art. 6 Use of the resources of the Association

The resources available to the cfd are used for the areas of work referred to in para. 3. Any available assets of the Association will be invested on ethical principles.

The cfd shall comply with the ZEWO guidelines.

Art. 7 Liability

The members are only answerable for liabilities of the Association in an amount equivalent to the membership contribution paid by them.

Art. 8 Liquidation of the Association

Liquidation of the Association may be decided by a two-thirds majority of an Assembly of Members convened in compliance with the statutes. If the Association is wound up, the Assembly of Members shall decide on the transfer of the assets of the Association to organisations which pursue a similar goal.

Art. 9 Entry into force of the statutes

The first statutes of the cfd were adopted by the Founding Assembly held on 20 May 1971 in Berne. The present statutes were adopted by the Assembly of Members on 9 June 2006 and replace the statutes of 4 June 2004.