



CONSTITUTION OF YOUNG MINDS INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLE – I: MOTTO, HEADQUARTERS & EMBLEM

ART I.01:

This organization shall be known as ‘**Young Minds International**’ hereinafter called also as YMI and its motto shall be “**To Impact Lives through Service**”.

ART I.02:

The Headquarters of this organization will be at Bangalore, India.

ART I.03:

The emblem of the organization shall be the letters YMI in white and gold on a navy-blue background.

ARTICLE – II: PURPOSES & OBJECTIVES

The purposes and objectives of YMI are:

- 1 To serve people in need in the local community and globally.
- 2 To follow universal ethical teachings.
- 3 To foster friendship, family fellowship and networking among members.
- 4 To take up worthy projects to protect human rights and the environment.
- 5 To grant charter and affiliate units of the Young Minds International.

ARTICLE – III: MEMBERSHIP

ART III.01

The members shall include all those inducted into membership by YMI directly or through the affiliated clubs and have agreed to follow the Constitution, Bye-Laws and the rules of the YMI.

ART III.02:

Membership is open to men and women aged 18 years and above. Admission shall be through invitation and sponsorship by existing members.

ART III.03:

Membership is open to persons of good character and conduct regardless of caste, creed, religion, language, gender, colour or nationality.

ART III.04:

All membership applications must be recommended by two existing members.

ART III.05:

Individuals can become members of clubs meeting online with remote membership.

ART III.06:

The International Presidium can approve other types of membership such as corporate membership.

ART III.07:

YMI through its duly constituted conflict management bodies shall have the right to warn, admonish, suspend or revoke membership subject to rules and provisions prescribed for misconduct, for defying orders of the Arbiters of Justice, working against the interest of the YMI, and non-payment of dues despite reminder.

ART IV.01(a)

The basic unit of YMI shall be the Club.

Multiple clubs in a particular locality shall comprise a District Governorate.

Multiple District Governorates shall constitute a Region.

Multiple Regions in a country or countries shall constitute an Area.

All the Areas of the World constitute the International.

The International Presidium shall have the authority to create, divide or integrate territorial units at the Area levels.

The Area Presidium shall have the power to create or alter the territory of the Regions.

The Regional Presidium can create or alter the territory of the Governorates.

ART IV.01 (b)

India and the Middle East shall have a single Area comprising of 5 Regions. The International Presidium can create Area for other countries as deemed necessary.

ART IV .02 (1)

There shall be elected Presidiums at the International, Area, Regional, Governorate and Club levels.

The Council at the International shall be known as the International Presidium exercising the ultimate authority in the executive, administrative and legislative functions as prescribed.

All Presidiums shall have their own nominated Secretaries, nominated Treasurers and Sentinels. The general rule shall be that only elected officers have voting rights. Appointed and nominated officers shall not have voting rights.

ART. IV .02 (2) (a)

The International Presidium shall be presided over by the International President, the Area Presidium by the Area President, the Regional Presidium by the Regional Chair, the Governorate Presidium by the District Governor and the Club Presidium by the Club Chair. They shall administer in consultation with their respective Presidium.

ART IV.02 (2) (b)

The Secretary and Treasurer at all levels shall be honorary. The Secretary of the International Presidium known as the International Secretary General shall be nominated by the Presidium on the recommendation of the International President and he shall be a member of YMI. The term of office shall ordinarily not exceed two years. However, if a substitute is not found, the International Secretary General can be given a single two-year extension by the Presidium. The Treasurer shall be nominated by the Presidium as the case may be.

Office staff can be employed for clerical jobs but will have no official roles.

ART IV.02. (2) (c): VACANCY IN OFFICE

If a vacancy due to death, incapacity, resignation or punitive action occurs to an elected office such as the International President, Area President, Regional Chair, the District Governor or the Club Chair, the officer elect shall automatically assume charge. If an elect officer serves six months or more in such a capacity, he or she shall not be entitled to another full term in office. If the elected member who so assumes office serves less than six months, he or she shall be entitled to another full term in office. The assumption of charge by an elected member will be subject to the approval of the concerned Presidium, confirming the date the particular office fell vacant.

ART IV .02 (3)

The Presiding officer at every level of YMI shall be duty bound to summon their Presidium meetings periodically or every quarter. In the event the presiding officer fails to summon the meeting, the Senate or the Grand Council can direct the IPE, APE, RCE, DGE or anyone else in the Presidium to summon the meeting and transact regular business. This direction shall be binding on all parties concerned.

ART IV.02 (4) (a)

There shall be one Constitution for the entire organization.

The International Presidium shall consist of 20 members elected from different Areas, based on their membership - the International President, the International President Elect & The International Secretary General, The Treasurer & The Global Youth Representative. Only the International Presidium Members are eligible to become the Area Presidents or Area President Elects. The total number of members including the International President and the International President Elect shall be 23.

The term of office of the International Presidium Members shall be two years. When elections are held for the Presidium, the number of positions will not include that of the officer elect.

The International President, the President Elect and the Presidium members are elected and will have voting rights. The same rule applies to all levels.

The general principle that only a member elected to that particular body has voting rights all be followed at all levels. Nominated and appointed members shall not have voting rights.

Two seats, one each shall be reserved for youth (aged 25-35) and women; and this shall alter by rotation.

The Global Youth Representative (aged 18-30), elected by the youths shall be a member with voting rights in the International Presidium.

There may be nominated Programme Directors at the International functioning under the Presidium members.

The Area, Regional & Governorate Presidiums shall be modeled on the International Presidium and shall have Youth Representatives with voting rights. Regional Presidium may opt to nominate a Vice-Chairman to assist the Regional Chair.

The Area Presidium shall consist of the Area President, Area President Elect, Area Secretary, Area Treasurer, Regional Chairs, Regional Chairs Elect, elected members of the Presidium & the AYR. The total strength of the Area Presidium excluding AP & APE shall be 23.

The number of Regional Presidium members can be adjusted depending on the number of Governorates.

There may be nominated Programme Directors at the Area, Regional and Governorate levels.

At the Governorate level, the District Governor, District Governor Elect, District Secretary, District Treasurer, all the Club Chairs in the Governorate and the District Youth Representative shall be members of the Presidium. There may be District Programme Directors. The voting right in the Presidium shall be on the lines of the International Presidium.

The Club Presidium shall have the Club Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Sentinel and the elected Presidium members.

At all levels, in the absence of the Presiding officer, the officer Elect shall chair the meeting or the Presidium can elect a pro tem chair to conduct the business.

ART IV.02 (4) (b): RESERVATION FOR WOMEN & YOUTH

The Area, Regional & Governorate Presidiums shall reserve two seats, one for women and another for a young person (aged 25-35). There shall be an elected youth representative who will have voting rights. The Clubs shall provide similar reservation to the women and youth in the Club Presidium if youth and women are available.

ART IV .02 (5): SUMMONING SPECIAL PRESIDIUM MEETINGS

1/3rd of the members of any Presidium can demand that a Presidium meeting be summoned in any special circumstance. In case, the Presiding Officer of that Presidium refuses or evades the summoning of the Presidium Meeting, the Council of Elders can appoint the Presiding Officer Elect or anyone else from the Presidium to summon and chair the meeting and this shall be honoured by all concerned.

ART IV.03: OFFICERS & NORMS OF CONDUCT

ART IV.03 (1)

(1) No officers of YMI shall be entitled to remuneration. However, the expenses can be reimbursed. Employed staff can be appointed when voluntary officers are not available or feasible for office work. The employed staff in any capacity are prohibited to indulge in any management function or electoral role and shall under no circumstance communicate except in official capacity as endorsed by the International Presidium. Any communication issued by the employed staff without the consent of the International Presidium shall be void ab initio.

ART IV.03 (2): COUNCILS OF THE ELDERS & THE ARBITERS OF JUSTICE

At every administrative level, there shall be an advisory body called the 'Council of the Elders' comprising of senior and past leaders who shall elect from among them:

- 1) Multiple Independent Election Commissars to conduct, oversee and manage elections
- 2) Multiple Arbiters of Justice to resolve conflicts and hear appeals in disciplinary matters.

The members of The Grand Council or The Senate need not be members of the Presidium.

ART IV.03 (3)

- 1) The Council of the Elders at the International level shall be known as the Grand Council and in all other levels as 'The Senate'.
- 2) The maximum number of members in the Grand Council and the Senate shall be 9.
- 3) The members of the Council of Elders shall be elected by the respective Presidium.
- 4) The Councils of Elders is not age restrictive and shall be a corrective and guiding body.
- 5) The members of the Councils of Elders shall act fairly and with neutrality.

- 6) The Election Commissars and the Arbiters of Justice shall always be an odd number.
- 7) There shall be a convener for the Elders Council at each level nominated by the concerned Presidium.

ART IV.04

- 1) The International Council of the Elders, called ‘The Grand Council of the Elders’, shall have the power to recommend the International Presidium to take corrective action on having been convinced of the necessity to intervene based on Suo motu notice or complaint from the Regional or Area level.
- 2) The recommendations of the Arbiters of Justice shall be binding. Disobedience to the recommendations of the Arbiters of Justice shall be dealt with under the provisions of Art III (6).
- 3) The Grand Council or the Senate shall ordinarily be dormant bodies which activate itself as and when necessities arise. They shall not ordinarily interfere with the functioning of the Presidiums.

ART IV.05 – CLUBS

- 1) The Club will have a President known as ‘The Chair’ who will preside over all the meetings and assisted by the Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, The Sentinel & Board Members as prescribed by the Bye-laws.
- 2) Clubs shall exercise maximum autonomy in community service programmes to be executed in the local community. The outflow of funds shall be restricted except for the mandatory dues or special collections approved by the International Presidium and for the community service projects.
- 3) Club members shall be bound by an ethical code of conduct and courtesy which includes respectful and non-abusive behavior to women and children. The members are expected to respect family values and brotherhood.
- 4) Members shall not engage in discussions on politics and religion in the club.

ARTICLE – V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- 1) The Duties of the Officers shall be as prescribed in the Manual of Official Duties of YMI.
- 2) The International President, Area President or Regional Chair, Governor or Club Chair as the case may be, shall preside over all meetings in their domain and in their absence, the Officer Elect or anyone else deputed by the Council. The President will have a vote in the body he presides over.
- 3) The Secretary at all levels shall be responsible for minutes, reports, records, attendance and communication. The Treasurer shall be in charge of all financial matters.
- 4) The term of office for all officers shall not be more than two years, except for the members of the Grand Council or The Senate.
- 5) The Election to the Offices shall be according to the Election Manual of YMI as shall be the eligibility criterion.
- 6) The elections shall either be through paper ballot which are preserved or through fully secure electronic mode as decided by the Election Commissars at each level. They shall not be in a hybrid mode.

ARTICLE – VI: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

ART VI.01:

- 1) All conflicts and disputes shall be managed by the prescribed Conflict Management Manual of YMI.
- 2) Conflicts and disputes shall be settled using principles of mediation, justice and good conscience.
- 3) The parties will always have a right to be heard and there shall be provisions for appeal.
- 4) Disciplinary proceedings shall be in accordance with the Manual on Disciplinary Action of YMI with the right of being heard and the right to appeals.
- 5) Removal from Office of the International President and the members of the Presidium shall only be with the 3/4th majority vote of the Presidium in the form of a motion and subject to endorsement by the Grand Council of Elders.
- 6) The decisions of the Arbiters of Justice shall be binding on the parties.

ART VI.02:

All members shall fully obey the laws of the nation and the directives of the courts.

ART VI.03:

All members agree that they shall settle their disputes and conflicts through mediation, conciliation and arbitration and shall always strive to avoid litigation.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL MATTERS

ART VII.01:

There shall be Treasurers at all levels to handle financial matters and always present transparent, true and audited accounts within the specified time. The Treasurer shall act only in consultation with the International Presidium or the respective Presidium.

ART VII.02:

The Fiscal Year shall be from 1st July to 30th June.

ART VII. 03:

The accounts at all levels shall be made available for audit, inspection and verification. The audited accounts with all relevant details and annexures should be presented in the first meeting of the following year of the respective presidium or by September 30th of the succeeding YMI year whichever is earlier.

ART VII.04:

The expenditure at each level shall be as per a detailed budget approved by the concerned Presidium. All relevant expenses incurred against the approved budget with details, shall be presented to the Presidium every quarter for approval.

ART VII.05:

The International Presidium shall oversee the collection and disbursement of funds and shall ensure that funds are not accumulated or lying dormant, except in specially constituted 'Endowment Funds'.

ARTICLE - VIII: DUES

ART - VIII .01

- 1) The Charter Fee for a Club shall be US\$ 35 or equivalent for clubs with up to 10 members, and for each additional member US\$ 3 or equivalent should be paid. The International Presidium can modify or revise this amount as and when required.
- 2) The International Dues for an individual member shall be USD \$ 15 or equivalent per annum including the District, Regional and Area dues. The International Presidium can modify or revise this amount as and when required for each of the Areas.
- 3) The Dues of other levels, except the club level, shall be collected along with the International Dues and paid to the respective level.

ARTICLE – IX: CONVENTIONS & MEETINGS

ART IX.01:

There shall be Annual or Bi-Annual International Conventions to transact the regular business, approval of accounts and budgets and any other business suggested by the Presidium.

ART IX.02: SPECIAL CONVENTION

There may be Special Conventions recommended by the International Presidium, Area Presidium, Regional Presidium or District Presidium to consider any special or emergency matter that the Presidium deems necessary.

ART IX.03: NOTICE PERIOD

All International Conventions must be given at least 90 days' notice, Special International Conventions (Emergency Conventions) must be given 30 days' notice. The Area Conventions should be given 60 days' notice except for Special Area Conventions which should be given 30 days' notice.

Conventions at the Regional and District levels can be conducted with 30 days' notice. Electronic notice shall be given along with the postal notice.

ART IX.04: QUOROM

All meetings shall have a quorum of 50% membership of that body. If meetings fail to have quorum, the meeting shall be dismissed to reconvene with a quorum of 25%.

ART IX.05: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Removal of the elected International officers from office requires 3/4th members of the International Presidium voting in favour of the motion. At all other levels, 2/3rd majority is required for removal from office.

ART IX.06: PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The procedure for conduct of meetings shall be as prescribed by the Meetings Manual of the YMI; and wherever specific provisions are absent, the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.

ART IX .07: PROVISION FOR ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE MODES

Conventions and meetings can be conducted electronically and in online mode. Attendance can be by any tele-conferencing mode but all meetings shall be recorded.

ARTICLE X: PROTOCOLS, DECORUM & FREQUENCY FOR MEETINGS

ART X.01

The Meetings of YMI shall follow the protocols and decorum as prescribed by the Manual on the conduct of meetings in YMI.

ART X.02:

All administrative levels shall conduct at least one Presidium Meeting every three months. Every Club shall conduct at least one Director Board Meeting and one General Body/Family Meeting per month.

ARTICLE - XI: NOMINATIONS, RESERVATIONS & TRANSPARENCY NORMS

ART - XI .01:

The International Presidium or the Presidiums can endorse nominations so as to ensure the representation of women and youth, in case, they have not been elected as Arbiters of Justice and their presence is vital.

ART - XI.02:

Young Minds International and all its entities shall strive to practice transparency. The members shall generally have a right to information subject to restrictions imposed by the International Presidium.

ARTICLE - XII: CEREMONIES, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & TRAINING

ART – XII.01: INDUCTION, INVESTITURE, VESTMENTS & PAGEANTRY INDUCTION, INVESTITURE, VESTMENTS & PAGEANTRY

The Induction of Members and the Investiture of Officers shall be conducted only in the prescribed format and by persons ordained. The officers shall wear appropriate vestments, jewels, collars and regalia.

ART - XII.02: PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

YMI can organize partner organizations, if needed, comprising women or children, exclusively subject to the Manuals on Women & Children organizations.

ART - XII.03: TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1. There shall be training programmes at all levels including the Club Officials Training Programme, Governors Training Programme Internationally and Officials Preparatory & Planning Meetings. There shall be Inter club General Forums to promote inter club fellowship and leadership development.
2. There shall be Inter Governorate General Forum for membership development, promotion of fellowship and networking among the members.

ARTICLE - XIII: AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, LOGOS, FLAGS & SYMBOLS

1. YMI shall disburse only Awards and Recognition endorsed by the International Presidium.
2. The Clubs or members shall use only the logos, symbols or flags as endorsed by the International Presidium and in the adopted colours.

ARTICLE - XIV: DISSOLUTION

ART - XIV. 01

The YMI can only be dissolved by the International Presidium with the endorsement of the Council of the Elders and with an established quorum of 3/4th membership of the Presidium present and voting in favour by 3/4th majority to a resolution to the effect.

ART XIV.02:

A resolution for dissolution requires a mandatory notice of 6 months sent by post to all the members of the International Presidium.

ART XIV.03:

In case of a dissolution, the opportunity shall be given to any dissenting members who shall volunteer to run the organization under a new banner or old one. Any remnant fund shall not be distributed among the members but be transferred to the new organization or a reconstituted organization with similar goals.

ARTICLE - XV: AMENDMENTS, OPERATIVE MANUALS ETC

ART - XV

The International Presidium shall have the power to amend the Constitution by 2/3rd majority members present and voting. They shall also have the power to bring forth Operative Manuals for Conduct of Meetings, Conduct of Elections, Conduct of Disciplinary Proceedings, Dispute Management Procedures, Organization of Women and Children Units and other matters. They shall be binding on the members and all units of the organization.

ARTICLE - XVI: JURISDICTION

ART: XVI

YMI can sue or be sued in its name and the jurisdiction for litigation shall be Bangalore, India while the jurisdiction for matters up to the Area level shall be as decided by the respective Areas.
