



Constitution: World Federation for Medical Education

Article 1. Name.

The name of the Federation shall be the World Federation for Medical Education.

Article 2. Objectives.

The objective of the Federation shall be to work towards the provision of competent medical and health service personnel for the universal community of mankind. To this end, the Federation shall strive to assure through co-operative effort the highest scientific and ethical standards in medical and paramedical education. In the fulfilment of this task, the Federation shall:

- a) provide for full and frequent exchange of information relevant to the advancement of medical education;
- b) develop mechanisms for ascertaining the views of medical educators on matters of medical education;
- c) study matters related to the advancement of medical education and the promotion of research;
- d) conduct programmes designed to strengthen medical education and encourage the mutual support of programmes of medical and related education;
- e) promote the joint planning of programmes pertaining to the relation between education in health disciplines and systems of delivery of health care;
- f) facilitate the liaison between themselves of relevant professional associations throughout the world and to facilitate the liaison of such bodies with international organizations (in particular with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank).

Article 3. Functions.

The functions of the Federation shall be:

- a) the facilitation of the exchange of information among its members and their constituencies through publications, the holding of conferences and seminars, the appointment of consultants, and by appropriate means;
- b) the conducting and support of comparative studies of medical education;
- c) the conducting and support of programmes aimed at the improving of the quality of medical education;
- d) the conducting and support of programmes pertaining to the relationship between education in medicine and the health sciences and the provision of health care;
- e) the doing of all such things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of any of the purposes stipulated in Article 2, including the appointment of trustees to hold and administer property on behalf of the Federation.

Article 4. Membership.

- i) Membership of the Federation shall be open to:
 - a) the following Regional Associations of Medical Education (here listed):

Association of Medical Schools in Africa

Panamerican Federation of Associations of Medical Schools

Association for Medical Education in Europe

Association for Medical Education in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

South East Asian Regional Association for Medical Education

Association for Medical Education for the Western Pacific Region
 - b) such regional organizations devoted wholly or substantially to the advancement of medical education as from time to time may be designated by the Executive Council; and
 - c) such other global, regional and national organizations as from time to time may be designated by the Executive Council.
- ii) Associate membership of the Federation shall be open to such associations devoted wholly or substantially to the advancement of medical education as from time to time may be designated by the Executive Council. The period of associate membership

shall be four years, unless otherwise prescribed by the Executive Council, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Executive Council.

- iii) Membership or associate membership of the Federation, or membership of the Executive Council, may be withdrawn for good cause on the vote of at least two thirds of the voting membership of the Executive Council. Any person or organization from whom or from which membership is withdrawn shall be furnished with a statement in writing setting out the grounds upon which membership has been withdrawn, and the conditions under which an application for readmission shall be entertained.

Article 5. Organization.

- i) The business of the Federation shall be conducted by:
 - a) an Executive Council
 - b) a President
 - c) an Executive Director
 - d) a Treasurer
- ii) The Executive Council.
 - a) The Executive Council shall consist of the President, the immediate Past President, the Executive Director, and the Presidents of the Regional Associations listed in Article 4 (i); together with such other persons co-opted by the Executive Council. Co-opted members shall normally serve as members of the Executive Council for a period of four years, but this period may be extended by the Council. Co-opted members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership but may neither vote nor hold office within the Executive Council.
 - b) The World Health Organization and the World Medical Association may each nominate a representative to serve as members of the Executive Council. Such members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership of the Executive Council but may neither vote nor hold office within the Executive Council.
 - c) The Executive Council shall supervise the operation and administration of the Federation. The programme and budget of the Federation shall be submitted by the Executive Director to the Executive Council for its approval.
 - d) In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Executive Council, this vacancy shall be filled by that Council member's successor in office, or, in the case of a co-opted member, by such person as may be nominated by the Executive Council.
 - e) The Executive Council shall meet at least once a year.

f) All decisions of the Executive Council shall be taken by simple majority of the members present and entitled to vote. The President shall have a casting vote. One half of the membership of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum. The President is authorised, at his discretion, to consult individually members of the Council and to act in accordance with the majority of the replies received.

iii) The President.

The President shall be elected by the presidents of the Regional Associations listed in Article 4(i). He shall hold office for four years and shall be eligible for re-election.

iv) The Executive Director.

a) The Executive Council shall appoint an Executive Director, who shall serve for a four year term of office and who shall be eligible for re-appointment. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative and legal officer of the Federation, and shall have power to do all such things as are incidental to this office, including the organization of meetings of the Executive Council. He may employ officials and pay to them such remuneration and allowances as the Executive Council may from time to time determine.

b) The Executive Director shall be a member of the Executive Council and shall serve as its secretary. He shall also be a member, and shall serve as secretary, of all commissions and committees of the Council. He shall have organizational responsibility for all conferences convened by the Federation, but may delegate this function, as well as any of the secretarial functions mentioned above.

c) The Executive Council may direct that the offices of President and Executive Director shall be held simultaneously by the same person.

v) The Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Council and need not be a member of the Council. He shall be responsible to the Executive Director for the preparation of accounts, for the financial administration of the Federation, and for such other duties as the Executive Director may specify.

Article 6. Relationships.

The Federation, as the representative body of world medical education, shall maintain relations with the WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, the World Bank and other appropriate agencies.

Article 7. By-Laws.

The Executive Council shall have power to approve by-laws for the regulation of the affairs of the Federation. Such by-laws shall be drawn up by the Executive Director and may be amended by majority vote of the Executive Council.

Article 8. Amendments.

This Constitution may be amended by the Executive Council on the vote of two thirds of its membership. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to all members of the Executive Council not less than three months prior to the date of the meeting at which they are to be considered.

Article 9. Dissolution.

The Federation may be dissolved on the unanimous vote of the Executive Council. In the event of such dissolution, all surplus funds and assets of the Federation shall be distributed, either to an organization or to organizations having similar objectives as those of the Federation, as the Executive Council shall direct.

Article 10. Effect.

This Constitution was ratified by the Executive Council through consultation and came into effect on 31 December 1988. Article 9 was revised as worded above and unanimously adopted by the Executive Council on 26 June 1989. Article 5 was amended as worded above by unanimous decision of the Council on 29 September 1994.