

## PREAMBLE

Mayors for Peace is a worldwide organisation of cities devoted to achieving peace, disarmament and, in particular, the elimination of nuclear weapons. The network benefits from the support of more than 7,900 member cities from 164 countries and regions around the world, representing in excess of 1 billion citizens. The organisation's activities are framed within the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements sustainable), goal 16 (Promote peaceful, inclusive and fair societies) and goal 17 (Strengthen partnerships and networking to achieve these goals).

Mayors for Peace is led by the city of Hiroshima, which currently holds the position of Chair City of the organisation. The headquarters of the international secretariat are also based there and, in accordance with its [Bylaws](#), it has two primary governing bodies:

- The general conference, attended by all member cities in order to decide on and approve matters relating to the organisation. It is held alternately every four years between Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The executive conference, attended by executive cities in order to discuss and put forward initiatives and activities ahead of the upcoming general conference. It is held every two years in one of the executive cities.

The President city of Hiroshima has appointed 27 executive cities – 14 of which are also vice president cities – in order to work in conjunction with the international secretariat on the smooth development and operation of the organisation.

<b>President and executive city</b>
Hiroshima

<b>Vice president and executive cities</b>	<b>Executive cities</b>
Nagasaki	Bangkok
Hannover	Fremantle

Volgograd	Sarajevo
Malakoff	Semey
Muntinlupa	Cochin
Manchester	Montreal
Ypres	Wellington
Biograd na Moru	Santos
Granollers	Cartago
Halabja	Tehran
Fongo-Tongo	Grigny
Mexico City	Cervia
Frogn	
Des Moines	

The cities shown in green are also leader cities, i.e., they are in charge of the regional chapter of their country and they play a leadership role in promoting activities in their region.

The most recent 2017-2021 plan of action, approved in the 9th general conference held in Nagasaki in 2017, sets a host of primary goals, including: “to support the proactiveness of leader cities of the organisation” and “to strengthen regional groups to promote specific activities in each region.” In line with this premise, and in order to promote specific actions in the region and to underpin the role of local governments in building more peaceful societies throughout the continent, the European executive cities have regrouped in order to meet this request and decided to set up the European chapter of Mayors for Peace, structured as detailed below.

The European chapter shall be formed by the European executive cities of Mayors for Peace: Hannover (Germany), Volgograd (Russia), Malakoff (France), Manchester (the UK), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Frogn (Norway), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Grigny (France) and Cervia (Italy). These cities shall be aligned with the president city of Hiroshima and the international secretariat, which shall ultimately be responsible for supervising and approving all the activities

promoted in the region. Likewise, the chapter cities shall engage in bona fide efforts to cooperate with the mission and vision of the organisation. As leader cities of their respective regions, these cities shall also direct and manage the national chapters for their country. Accordingly, the European member cities shall be represented by the executive/leader city of their country and the technical secretariat of the European chapter.

The president city of Hiroshima and the international secretariat play a vital role in the performance of the European chapter. The cities that will comprise the chapter shall remain in continuous communication with the international secretariat, cooperating closely with it and reporting to it the decisions and actions promoted on their soil. These shall all be in keeping with the organisation's bylaws, plan of action and strategy. The European executive cities shall act with bona fide intent promoting activities on their soil to contribute to attaining the general goals of the organisation, whilst staying focussed on the specific problems and needs of the continent in order to bring about a much more wide-reaching impact as a global movement of cities promoting human rights, global justice and peace.

The establishment of this association reflects the desire to continue networking and pooling the efforts to promote peace and human rights that have been made by the municipalist movement to progress towards a fairer, more peaceful, and more sustainable world.

The European member cities that are appointed by Hiroshima after the establishment of this association may join it subject to approval from the General Assembly and the Executive Committee of the European chapter.

The legal bylaws set forth below regulate the means of governance of the European chapter of Mayors for Peace, the role of the European leader or executive cities and the activities to promote a culture of peace in the continent.

## ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

### CHAPTER I. NAME, HEADQUARTERS AND LEGAL BYLAW

#### **Article 1**

By means of these bylaws, a non-profit association with legal status and full capacity to act is set up that shall be governed by Spanish legislation. The name of the association is **"THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE"** (hereinafter referred to as "the Association").

Its registered office shall be **Plaça de la Porxada, 6, Granollers, Barcelona province, Spain.**

The Association shall be a European network of municipalities in the form of an international non-profit organisation, with no political or religious affiliations.

The Association is set up for an open-ended period and its area of action shall be the European region.

### CHAPTER II. GOALS

#### **Article 2      Mission**

The mission of the Association is:

To represent the local governments in the European continent, promoting their values, goals and interests through cooperation among its members and before the international community, provided they relate to matters associated with the promotion of peace and coexistence.

The Association is shaped as the European Chapter of the Working Group "Mayors for Peace" (<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>). The aims of this group are to contribute to achieving long-lasting world peace by doing the following: raising

concerns among citizens of the world to promote the complete abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity between member cities; and seeking to solve vital problems for the human race, such as hunger and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses and environmental degradation.

### **Article 3        Goals**

In order to fulfil its mission, the Association shall pursue the following goals:

- a. To campaign for nuclear disarmament, centring particularly on European security.
- b. To promote key issues relating to UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies) and other similar goals.
- c. To create a more defined identity in Europe through a strategy of influence and communication.
- d. To increase the number of member cities in Europe and strengthen their active engagement.
- e. To develop a firm, sustainable structure for the long-term in Europe.
- f. To give a voice to European municipalism on matters relating to the promotion of peace and coexistence.
- g. To foster unity and cooperation between members.
- h. To promote activities linked to the campaigns of Mayors for Peace and open up new avenues for working in this sphere.
- i. To encourage engagement and synergies with bodies and institutions working in the field of peace and disarmament in the region.
- j. To guarantee effective representation for local governments in the international community, in particular when it comes to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and its agencies, specifically to goals 11, 16 and 17.
- k. To come up with policies, programmes and initiatives within the framework of the mission, goals and values of Mayors for Peace, which entail seeking suitable methods to be in a position to implement them, in accordance with the internal rules of the Association.
- l. To secure legal status in order to pursue the foregoing goals.
- m. To encourage and collaborate with UNESCO on education program for a culture of

peace and non-violence, following the Seville Statement on Violence, the Manifesto 2000 for a culture of peace and non-violence and the 8 Action Areas for a Culture of Peace.

#### **Article 4      Activities**

In order to achieve its aforementioned goals, the Association shall engage in the following activities:

- Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the foregoing aims.
- Networking with various stakeholders.
- Events, exhibitions, meetings, lectures, round tables, recreational activities, seminars, and a whole host of activities associated with the culture of peace.
- Publications, audiovisual presentations and a whole host of activities promoting the culture of peace.
- Promotion of the formation of forums for reflection.
- Exertion of influence on public sector agendas so the culture of peace becomes a means of preventing conflict.
- Mediation in conflict situations.
- Other tasks relating to the above.

#### **Article 5      Adherence to the principles of international law and the decisions of Mayors for Peace**

Within the framework of fulfilling its mission, goals and activities, the Association shall act in accordance with the principles of international law and the guidelines laid down by the Working Group of Mayors for Peace.

### **CHAPTER III. MEMBERS, ADMISSION PROCEDURE, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, GROUNDS FOR FORFEITURE OF THE STATUS OF MEMBER**

#### **Article 6**

The following conditions must apply in order to become a member of the Association:

- Being a member city of Mayors for Peace.

- Being a city located in the geographical area of the European continent.
- Being appointed as an executive city by Mayors for Peace.

Any city that meets the above-stated conditions shall formally complete an application for membership of the Association.

Applications to be a member must be considered by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee upon whom it is incumbent to ensure that applicants meet the admission requirements. All candidates shall undertake to support Mayors for Peace and shall adhere to its mission, values, and goals.

The admission procedure shall be as follows:

1. The admission application must be arranged by the competent body which will be required to appoint the representative from the local government making the application.
2. In order to join the Association the relevant local government must be involved with Mayors for Peace and/or submit a written application to the Executive Committee, which shall make a decision regarding the application in the first meeting held and shall give due notice of it in the very next General Assembly.

## **Article 7**

Members may take part in the activities and programmes of the organisation and they shall have access, on the same terms, to the information, data and documentation concerning local government affairs and the activities of the organisation. Specifically, they are acknowledged as having the following rights:

- a. To attend the meetings of the General Assembly with voting and speaking rights.
- b. To vote from among its members those who shall hold representation or management positions in the Association.
- c. Every member is eligible to be a candidate for election to a representation or management position.

- d. To exercise the representative capacity entrusted to them in every circumstance.
- e. To intervene in the governance, arrangements, services and activities of the Association, in accordance with the legal rules and bylaws.
- f. To present to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee all items they believe may contribute to the success of the Association and endow it with greater efficiency in meeting basic social goals.
- g. To request and secure information concerning the administration and management of the Executive Committee or the agents of the Association.
- h. In the event of disciplinary proceedings, members of the Association are entitled to express their opinions before any disciplinary measures are adopted.
- i. All members are entitled to receive information about the activities of the Association.
- j. Any member may make use of the common services set up or made available by the Association.
- k. Members may form part of working groups pursuant to the terms set by the Executive Committee.
- l. To be in possession of an up-to-date copy of the bylaws of the Association.

#### **Article 8**

Members of the Association have the following obligations:

- a. To adhere to the bylaws, resolutions, and rules of the Association, as well as those issued by Mayors for Peace.
- b. To take part in the activities of the Association to the best of their abilities, undertaking a commitment to the aims of the Association.
- c. To abide by and comply with resolutions validly adopted by the governing and representative bodies of the Association.
- d. To be up-to-date with payment of the yearly fee.

#### **Article 9**

Members aim to support, promote, and embrace the mission, values, and goals of Mayors for Peace.



#### **Article 10**

Any member may apply to relinquish their status at any time. To do so, they shall submit a written notification along these lines to the Executive Committee giving at least six months' notice. During said period, the member shall continue to be bound to make payment of any fees due, including the proportional share of the relevant expenses.

#### **Article 11**

Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing articles, the following shall constitute grounds for the forfeiture of the status of member:

1. Expulsion by the Association due to serious or very serious grounds, pursuant to the provisions of articles 38 and 39 of these bylaws.
2. When the member is no longer a member of Mayors for Peace.
3. Failing to comply with the obligations set out in the bylaws.

### **CHAPTER IV. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

#### **Article 12**

Governance of the Association shall be carried out by:

- a. the General Assembly,
- b. the Executive Committee,
- c. the Chair,
- d. the Vice Chair,
- e. the Treasurer, and
- f. the Secretary.

#### ***THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

#### **Article 13**

The General Assembly is the highest body of the Association, and its members are party to it of their own independent, inalienable right. It has responsibility for all the

tasks, management, and control of the organisation.

In attendance at a legally convened General Assembly, the members of the Association shall decide on the items that are within the remit of the Assembly by means of a majority.

All members are bound by the resolutions of the General Assembly, including absent members, dissenting members and members in attendance who abstain from voting.

#### **Article 14 Powers**

The General Assembly shall have the following powers:

- a. To approve, if applicable, the management by the governing body, the budget, and the financial statements.
- b. To elect and remove members on the governing body and to oversee its activity.
- c. To amend the bylaws, as set out herein.
- d. To resolve on the method and the amount of contributions to the Association's funding or to payment of its expenses, including contributions to the equity of the Association.
- e. To resolve on the transformation, merger, spin-off or dissolution of the Association, as specified in the relevant articles.
- f. To issue a resolution on joining or leaving federations or confederations.
- g. To apply for a declaration of public interest.
- h. To approve the internal regulations and any amendments thereto.
- i. To give due consideration to applications submitted by its members, and any admissions and withdrawals owing to reasons other than a definitive severance.
- j. To ratify, if applicable, disciplinary withdrawals and other penalties imposed by the Executive Committee owing to highly serious infringements.
- k. To resolve on any items that do not fall within the express remit of any other body of the Association.

#### **Article 15 Structure**

The General Assembly shall be formed by all members belonging to the Association, through their duly appointed representatives, with the relevant certification.

#### **Article 16 Meetings**

1. The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary meeting at least once a year in order to approve, if applicable, the management by the governing body, the budget and the financial statements. The meeting shall be held within six months following the year-end date of the financial year.

2. The General Assembly shall hold an extraordinary meeting in the following circumstances:

- When the governing body deems it appropriate.
- When 10% of members request it, in which case the General Assembly shall compulsorily be held within 30 days following the request.

3. The General Assembly shall be validly convened regardless of the number of members present or represented.

#### **Article 17 Call**

The governing body shall call the General Assembly at least ninety days before the date envisaged for the meeting. The call shall be issued in writing and sent to the registered address of each member, or issued by other mediums, including electronically.

#### **Article 18 Agenda**

1. A number of members representing at least 10% of the votes of the Association can request the governing body to include one or more items in the agenda for the General Assembly. If it has already been called, the request shall be made within the first third of the period between receipt of the call and the envisaged date for the meeting so that all members may be informed about the addition to the agenda, unless a meeting has

been universally convened or the resolutions relate to the calling of a new General Assembly.

2. If in the General Assembly the aim is to bring liability action against members of the governing body or to seek their removal from their positions, an extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall be called therein incorporating this item as the sole item on the agenda.

#### **Article 19      Convening of the General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly shall be validly convened with a minimum of five members present or represented.

2. The position of Chair and Secretary of the General Assembly shall be held by the persons who hold these positions on the governing body. If the Chair is not present, said person shall be replaced successively by the Vice Chair or the eldest member in the meeting.

3. The Secretary shall draw up the minutes of every meeting which shall be signed by said person along with the Chair. The minutes shall incorporate an excerpt of the discussions, the text of the resolutions adopted, the numerical outcome of votes and the list of attendees.

At the start of each session of the General Assembly, the minutes from the previous session shall be read so that they may be approved or amended. Five days beforehand, the minutes and any other documentation shall be made available for members in the registered office.

#### **Article 20      Voting rights and adoption of resolutions**

1. Every member has one vote in the General Assembly.

2. If doubt is cast on the voting rights of any member owing to a potential conflict of interest with the Association, in the General Assembly a decision shall be made on

this matter with a separate and, if applicable, secret vote.

3. Resolutions shall be adopted by a simple majority of the members in attendance at the meeting.
4. In order to adopt resolutions concerning the modification of the bylaws, the dissolution of the Association, the establishment of a federation with similar associations or the admission into an existing one, and the disposal or transfer of assets, a qualified majority of members shall be needed (i.e., for votes in favour to be greater than half of those cast).
5. Members that are unable to vote on a specific item in the agenda owing to a conflict of interest with the Association shall not count for the purposes of determining the majority needed to adopt the resolution, unless its purpose is to decide on a penalty procedure, the removal of the person affected as a member of a body or the exercise of liability action against said person.

#### **Article 21      Remote or virtual General Assembly**

1. The Executive Committee may call a remote Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly, i.e., to be held via any virtual medium, when deemed appropriate, whereby these bodies shall be tantamount to their face-to-face counterparts. When it comes to the convening, quorum and voting processes, these shall be governed by the same provisions as for face-to-face meetings, although calls and the voting system shall be governed by the specifications set out in this article.
2. The call for virtual General Assemblies shall be served on the members listed with voting rights and it shall set out the agenda, the period for which the Assembly shall unfold, the voting period(s) and the closing date of the Assembly.
3. The period for the unfolding of the Assembly, during which all the items of the agenda shall be simultaneously and individually subject to discussion in the forums set up by the Association to this end, shall by default be set at two days, whereby it

may be extended by a further two calendar days at the decision of the Executive Committee.

4. Once the two calendar days of the period of discussions have elapsed, along with the two additional days if requested, and once the conclusions to be subject to a vote have been accepted, the voting period shall commence whereupon every member shall cast their vote on each of the items on the agenda.
5. The voting period is set with a duration by default of two calendar days. Throughout the voting period, and in real time, the outcomes shall be visible on the Association's website. Voting cannot be delegated and members shall accept the authenticity and reliability of the voting system the Association has made available.
6. Votes shall be publicly disclosed and roll-called to assure their transparency and authenticity.
7. Once two days have elapsed following the closure of the final voting process, the Secretary shall disclose the definitive outcomes by drawing up the respective minutes which shall be released under the same terms as the minutes of face-to-face General Assemblies.

## ***THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

### **Article 22**

1. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Association which regulates, administers, and represents it. The body is formed by the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and 3 members.
2. The choice of its members, who must also be among the associates and be of legal age, shall be made by means of a vote in the General Assembly. The persons chosen shall begin their duties after accepting the position.
3. The appointment and termination of the positions shall be brought to the attention of the persons chosen by means of a certificate issued by the outgoing Secretary

with the approval of the outgoing Chair, and it shall also include acceptance from the persons who will hold those positions.

4. If there are several candidates, the choice of the Executive Committee shall be made by a resolution from a simple or relative majority of members present or represented in the General Assembly (more votes in favour than against).
5. Candidates who submit a formal application shall be entitled to receive a copy of the list of members and their postal and email addresses, provided express authorisation has been issued in this regard.
6. Members of the Executive Committee shall exercise the position unremunerated.
7. The Executive Committee shall be assisted by a Technical Office formed by the General Secretary and the Treasurer, who shall not be required to previously hold the position of member of the Association. Its duties shall relate to the ordinary operation of the Association and it shall be an essentially advisory body whose opinion shall be taken into consideration at any time, albeit without voting rights for any item where it is acting as a member.
8. Moreover, the meetings may be attended by those persons the Executive Committee deems pertinent; and their opinion shall be heard though they shall not benefit from voting rights.

#### **Article 23 Duration and grounds for termination of the position**

1. Members of the Executive Committee shall exercise their position for a period of two years, notwithstanding the fact that they may be re-elected.
2. Grounds for termination of the positions of the Executive Committee before the regulatory terms of office expire may arise owing to:
  - Annulment of legal status.
  - Withdrawal notified to the governing body.
  - Severance resolved on by the General Assembly.
  - Any other grounds determined in these bylaws or in legislation.
3. Vacancies arising on the Executive Committee shall be filled in the first General

Assembly held, whether it is face-to-face or remote. In the meantime, a member of the Association may provisionally hold the vacant position if the Executive Committee so decides.

#### **Article 24 Powers**

The Executive Committee, whose members exercise their position free of charge and voluntarily, has the following powers:

- a) To represent, manage and administer the Association in the broadest terms admissible in law, and to ensure the fulfilment of the decisions agreed in the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules, instructions and guidelines set by the same.
- b) To issue resolutions as necessary in relation to its appearance before public bodies and in order to exercise all kinds of legal actions and file the relevant appeals.
- c) To submit a proposal to the General Assembly for the defence of the interests of the Association.
- d) To submit a proposal to the General Assembly for the defence of the establishment of the fees to be paid by members of the Association.
- e) To call General Assemblies and ensure the resolutions adopted are adhered to.
- f) To present the balance sheet and the financial statements from every financial year to the General Assembly for approval, and to draw up the budgets for the following year.
- g) To hire the Association's employees.
- h) To inspect the accounts and ensure services are operating as usual.
- i) To set up working groups to ensure that the aims of the Association are sought as efficiently and effectively as possible and give authorisation for any actions these groups plan to carry out.
- j) To appoint the members of the Executive Committee who shall be responsible for every working group at the proposal of said groups.
- k) To make the necessary arrangements before public bodies, entities, and other persons to secure:
  - Subsidies or other grants.



- Use of premises or buildings that may become a place of coexistence and communication and also a centre for citizen recovery.
- l) To open current accounts and savings books with any credit or savings institution and to have access to the funds deposited therein.
- m) To issue a provisional resolution on any circumstance not envisaged in these bylaws and to report on it in the first meeting of the General Assembly.
- n) To exercise any other power not specifically assigned to any other governing body of the Association or which has expressly been assigned to this body.

**Article 25 Meetings: call, attendance, and adoption of resolutions**

1. The Executive Committee, convened beforehand by the Chair or the person standing in for him, shall meet in an ordinary session as frequently as members decide, although this may never be less frequently than once a year. The meeting may be held remotely, i.e., virtually, whereby the provisions for the General Assembly not regulated in this section shall apply.
2. An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held when the Chair convenes such a meeting or when one is requested by half of the Committee's members.
3. The Executive Committee shall be validly convened whenever the meeting has been called beforehand and it is quorate, i.e., more than half of its members are in attendance.
4. Members of the Executive Committee shall be required to attend all meetings called, unless they give their apology for absence based on just causes. The attendance of the Chair and the Secretary, or the persons standing in for them, shall be always required.
5. The Executive Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes from the meeting's attendees.

**Article 26      Delegation of powers**

1. The Executive Committee may delegate any of the powers to the Chair or the General Secretary, provided this is granted a vote in favour from two thirds of its members.
2. With the same quorum, one or several agents may also be appointed to exercise the duties entrusted to them with all powers deemed pertinent for delegation in each circumstance.
3. The drawing up of financial statements and actions that require authorisation or approval from the General Assembly cannot be delegated.

**Article 27      Book of minutes**

The resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be set out in the Book of Minutes and shall be signed by the Secretary and the Chair.

At the start of every meeting of the Executive Committee, the minutes from the previous session must be read for approval or rectification, as the case may be.

***THE CHAIR AND THE VICE CHAIR***

**Article 28**

The Chair and the Vice Chair shall be chosen from among the members of the Association in the General Assembly and their positions shall be rotating based on a term of two years.

The members acting as Chair shall perform their duties unremunerated.

In the event of absence or illness, the Chair shall be replaced by the Vice Chair or the eldest member in the meeting, always in this order.

**Article 29      Duties of the Chair**

1. To direct and legally represent the Association by delegation of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.
2. To preside over and direct discussions of both the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.
3. To cast a deciding vote in the event of a tie.
4. To determine the call for meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

### ***THE TREASURER AND THE SECRETARY***

#### **Article 30      The Treasurer**

The Treasurer has the following duties:

- a. Custody and control over the Association's resources.
- b. Responsibility for the review and monitoring of the financial strategy.
- c. Drawing up the annual budget.
- d. Drawing up the balance sheet and the settlement of accounts.
- e. Keeping a cash ledger.
- f. Signing receipts for fees and other treasury documents.
- g. Payment of invoices approved by the Executive Committee, which must be approved by the Chair beforehand.
- h. Responsibility for depositing surplus in deposits with banking institutions.

In order to perform any of his duties, he may seek assistance from one or more technicians belonging to one of the local governments' member of the Association. This staff may give support to administrative arrangements and those relating to treasury duties, among others.

The Treasurer shall perform his duties unremunerated.

#### **Article 31      The General Secretary**

The elected General Secretary has custody of documentation of the Association, draws

up, drafts and signs the minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, draws up and authorises certificates that need to be issued, and is also responsible for the day-to-day keeping of the Record Book of members of the Association.

## **CHAPTER V. COMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS**

### **Article 32**

The setting up and establishment of any committee or working group shall be considered by members of the Executive Committee of the Association who wish to form them, and they shall explain the activities they propose performing.

## **CHAPTER VI. ASSOCIATION YEAR AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

### **Article 33**

The financial and association year shall be annual and end on 31 December each year. The financial statements shall be closed on 31 December each year. As an exception, the first year shall begin on the day the founding instrument is signed and it shall end on 31 December that same year.

### **Article 34**

The Association shall secure its financial means from the following sources:

- a) Fees set by the General Assembly for its members.
- b) Official or private subsidies.
- c) Donations, inheritances or bequests.
- d) Income from the equity or other revenue obtained.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

### **Article 35**

Members of the Association has the obligation to support it financially through annual

fees of 100 euros, these fees could be modified in the manner and for the amounts determined by the General Assembly at the proposal of the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly may set admission fees, regularly monthly fees (to be paid monthly, quarterly, or twice yearly, as stipulated by the Executive Committee) and extraordinary fees.

#### **Article 36**

The signatures of the Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be set out in the current accounts or savings books at the savings or credit institutions.

In order to have access to the funds, two signatures shall suffice, one of which shall be from the Treasurer or the Chair.

### **CHAPTER VII. DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM**

#### **Article 37**

The governing body may penalise any infringements committed by members.

These infringements may be classified as minor, serious and very serious; and the relevant penalties may range from a warning to expulsion from the Association, as specified in the internal regulations.

#### **Article 38 Penalty procedure**

The penalty procedure shall begin *ex officio* or as a result of a complaint or communication. Within a period of 10 days, the Executive Committee shall appoint an investigator, who shall process the penalty procedure and put forward a resolution within a period of fifteen days, following a prior hearing with the suspected infringing party. The final resolution, which shall be reasoned and approved by two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee, shall be adopted by this governing body also within a period of fifteen days.

In the event of penalties owing to very serious infringements agreed by the Executive

Committee, the interested parties may apply for ratification of the penalty in the first General Assembly held.

## **CHAPTER VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS, MERGER, DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 39**

Any motion for a revision of the bylaws, dissolution, liquidation, or merger of the Association shall be issued by at least 10 members of various countries, and the decision on the amendment thereof shall be made by the General Assembly.

### **Article 40**

In these cases, members of the Association shall be notified of the motions at least two months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly in which the motions shall be subject to consideration.

### **Article 41**

No decision on amendments to the bylaws or the dissolution, liquidation or merger of the Association may be adopted unless at least two thirds of members are represented and provided it is approved by two thirds of valid votes.

### **Article 42**

In relation to the provisions of the foregoing article, if fewer than two thirds of members are represented in the first meeting, in the next meeting the General Assembly may make an irrevocable decision regardless of the number of local government members represented.

### **Article 43**

The Association may be dissolved if the General Assembly, called extraordinarily expressly for this purpose, so resolves.

The Association shall be dissolved at the wishes of its members as expressed in a

General Assembly called to this end, and in accordance with the majorities set out in article 20 of these bylaws.

#### **Article 44**

In the ultimate instance of the dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall make the necessary and relevant arrangements with regard to determining the intended use of the assets and rights of the Association, as well as all arrangements relating to the purpose, termination and settlement of any outstanding operation of the Association.

The assembly shall be empowered to elect a liquidation committee if deemed necessary, whereby this committee shall be responsible for performing the liquidation duties for the Association.

Members of the Association are exempt from individual liability. Their liability shall be limited to fulfilling the obligations they have voluntarily taken on.

Any net surplus arising from the liquidation shall be handed over directly to a public or private non-profit institution which carries out an activity similar to that performed by the Association or an activity for other charitable purposes in the same geographical region of action as the Association.

### **CHAPTER IX. RELATIONS WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF MAYORS FOR PEACE**

#### **Article 45**

The cities that will comprise the Association shall be in continual communication and cooperation with the international secretariat of Mayors for Peace, reporting to it any decisions and actions promoted on their soil, which shall be aligned with the bylaws, plan of action and strategy followed by Mayors for Peace, pursuant to the Preamble.

### **CHAPTER X. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Article 46**

Any aspects not dealt with in these bylaws shall be governed by the applicable rules of prevailing Spanish legislation.

**Article 47**

The initial official languages of the Association shall be Spanish and English. The Association may make decisions regarding the working languages taking into consideration the language of its members and available resources.