

# STATUTES

(August 1993)

## **Art. 1: Name**

The name of the organisation is: International Federation for Psychotherapy. It is a society in the sense of Art. 60ss. of the Swiss Civil Code.

## **Art. 2: Objectives**

The IFP shall endeavour to unite associations, societies and groupings of psychotherapists in order:

- 2.1 to promote the development of psychotherapy in practice, teaching and research,
- 2.2 to promote and improve the exchange between cultures, professional societies and psychotherapy schools,
- 2.3 to encourage and support an appropriate standard in the practice of psychotherapy.

## **Art. 3: Means**

The IFP will pursue these objectives by:

- 3.1 Promoting the realisation of associations, societies and federations of psychotherapists in all cultures and countries.
- 3.2 Promoting relations and co-operation between its member organizations.
- 3.3 Assisting member organizations in their own activities by providing information and advice.
- 3.4 Providing co-ordinating activities.
- 3.5 Promoting regional chapters and supporting their activities.
- 3.6 Organizing regular international congresses and conferences on psychotherapy.
- 3.7 Co-operating with other international non-governmental organizations (NGO) active in the field of mental health.

#### **Art. 4: Membership**

The IFP observes a strictly neutral stand and allows for membership independent of religious, ethnic or political criteria.

The following shall be eligible for membership of the IFP:

- 4.1 (National) associations, societies and groupings of psychotherapists active in the field of mental health.  
  
Within these organizations those persons who have a relevant academic training and are qualified as psychotherapists by their national standards are considered regular members of the IFP.
- 4.2 The (national) associations, societies and groupings of psychotherapists mentioned above may also include as associate members persons with a non-academic graduate training.
- 4.3 Similar professional bodies, provided that they include a large number of psychotherapists among their members, and with respect of such members only.
- 4.4 Individual psychotherapists fulfilling, as a rule, the qualifications mentioned above in countries where there are no member societies of the IFP which they could join.
- 4.5 Honorary Membership: Persons who have made outstanding contributions to psychotherapy in the field of mental health.

#### **Art. 5: Application for membership**

- 5.1 Applications for membership shall be addressed in writing to the Board, either to the President or to the Secretary General. The Board may accord a preliminary membership if the requirements are fulfilled. The Council will later on rule on this application, admission to the IFP requiring a simple majority.
- 5.2 Applications of individual members are submitted and confirmed in the same way.
- 5.3 Honorary Membership is proposed by the Board and/or Council and must be approved by the Members' Assembly.

#### **Art. 6: Termination of membership**

- 6.1 A member organization or individual member may withdraw from the IFP by giving advance notice in writing.
- 6.2 A member organization or individual member acting or having acted contrary to the interests of the IFP or other member organizations or are no longer meeting the criteria for a membership of the IFP may be excluded.

#### **Art. 7: Organs of the Federation**

The organs of the Federation are: The Members' Assembly; Chapters; the Council; the Board; auditors; committees.

##### **7.1 The Members' Assembly**

- 7.1.1 The Members' Assembly represents the highest authority of the IFP. It is convened at the time of the International Congress of Psychotherapy. The Members' Assembly decides by

simple majority on major issues such as changes in statutes, elections, exclusions etc. (as specified in the by-laws).

- 7.1.2 The Members' Assembly comprise all members, whether individual or collective, including the Board and the Council.

## **7.2 The Chapters**

- 7.2.1 Chapters are regional groupings of IFP member organizations, representing certain geographical and/or cultural unified areas.

## **7.3 The Council**

- 7.3.1 The Council is composed of delegates of member organizations representing different regions, cultures, countries and minority-groups.
- 7.3.2 The Council will discuss and advise the Board in all matters of professional and organizational policy and is responsible for the strategic development of the IFP. The council also nominates candidates for the Board.

## **7.5 The Board**

- 7.5.1 The Board is the executive organ of the IFP and conducts all the affairs of the IFP in accordance with the statutes, the decisions of the Members' Assembly and the advice of the Council. The Board is elected by the members association for a period between each Members' Assembly, usually between the international congresses.
- 7.5.2 The Board consists of the President, the Past President and the President-elect, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. As a rule the Board shall meet once a year.
- 7.5.3 The decisions of the Board normally are taken by simple majority. If voting is equal the President shall have the deciding vote.
- 7.5.4 The Past President and President-elect assist the President and shall act for him in his absence and/or in the event of any other hindrance.
- 7.5.5 The Secretary General shall be responsible for the general administration of the IFP-business other than that which is reserved for the President and the Treasurer.

## **7.6 Auditors**

- 7.6.1 The Members' Assembly shall appoint two auditors to certify the accounts. They shall, as a rule, not be citizens of the one and same member state.

## **7.7 Committees**

- 7.7.1 Standing committees and ad hoc-committees may be established with powers and duties to be defined by the Board.
- 7.7.2 Standing committees.

The standing committees shall include the Membership Committee, the Finance Committee, the Scientific Programme Committee, the Constitution- and By-laws Committee and additional standing committees as may be specified in By-laws.

A standing committee shall have a chairman and at least four members.

The names of the standing committees shall reflect the area of their responsibilities.

Standing committees shall be appointed by the President who shall give due regard to advice from the Board.

### 7.7.3 Ad hoc-committees.

Ad hoc-committees may be appointed at the discretion of the President in consultation with the Board as the need arises in relation to specific topics.

## **Art. 8: Finances**

- 8.1 The International Federation for Psychotherapy is a non-profit organization. Officers and committee members will donate their services and will not be personally liable for debts incurred by the Federation.
- 8.2 All members shall pay an annual fee as determined by the Board, on recommendation of the Treasurer and the Financial Committee. Member organizations shall pay the total amount of the subscriptions due from their individual members.

## **Art. 9: Changing of the Statutes**

The statutes can be changed by a two-thirds majority of the Members' Assembly or by a two-thirds majority of votes in a write-in vote.

Changes proposed by the member societies or by individual members must be submitted to the board at least 180 days before they are brought to a vote. The board must make known proposed changes to the member societies and to the individual members at least 90 days before such changes are brought to a vote.

## **Art. 10: Dissolution of the Federation**

To dissolve the Federation a three-fourths majority of all members is necessary. The Members' Assembly decides on the use to be made of the assets of the Federation after dissolution.