

STATUTES OF THE UNION OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTS

Approved by the General Assembly on the 22nd June 2022

PREAMBLE

Having regard to the desire of Mediterranean architects to create a structure aimed at fulfilling their common goal of regenerating and consolidating the ties inherent in their adhesion to the Mediterranean Basin, the common birthplace of civilisation, an organisation was formed at Mediterranean level by the Declaration of Rabat of 15 July 1994 and the constituent General Assembly of 1st January 1994 in Rethymnon, Crete, Greece, entitled:

THE UNION OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTS (UMAR)

By the initiators following countries: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. This Union is complementary to other existing organisations. Pursuant to the action taken by the General Assembly held on January 16th and 17th 2004 at Meknes (Morocco), the relevant declaration and publication formalities were carried out with the competent body assigned to its registered office.

The Mediterranean basin is an area of great diversity and this is a great wealth. The UMAR declares the equality among all its member Sections and encourages to refrain from nationalistic policies and aggressive positions, promoting instead, architecture and culture, fraternity, peace and service to society.

TITLE I: OBJECTIVES - MEANS - LANGUAGES - REGISTERED OFFICE - TERM

Article 1: Objectives

The goal of the Union is, for the benefit of the Mediterranean Region, to attain the following basic objectives:

- 1-1: To proclaim architecture to be of public interest
- 1-2: to promote the Mediterranean concept as a strategic one, channeling the generation of new architectural approaches and initiatives in Mediterranean.
- 1-3: To ensure that architecture is practiced with total independence and integrity and with absolute respect to professional ethics
- 1-4: To promote top-quality architecture as an expression of culture serving people's needs.
- 1-5: To contribute to the protection of architectural heritage and instigate joint actions enabling its preservation and revalorization.
- 1-6: To conduct any actions to preserve and improve architectural quality, to maintain and protect the natural and built environment with a view to ensure a living environment worthy of the Mediterranean populations.
- 1-7: To undertake any actions apt to create and maintain relationships of friendship, confraternity and mutual respect between Mediterranean architects enabling genuine collaboration and co-operation, without discrimination on the basis of nationality, race or religion.
- 1-8: To ensure the co-ordination of Mediterranean architects' organisations with a view to:
 - Support them at national or international events.
 - Improve the mode of practicing architecture in the various countries.
 - Perfect the training of architecture students and maintain architects' skills.

- Promote the role of the architect in society as a dynamic element of economic, social and cultural development.
- Defend the moral and material rights of Mediterranean architects.

1-9: To create a dynamic aimed at introducing a spirit of co-operation and solidarity between Mediterranean architects and their organizations.

1-10: To encourage and promote all research in the field of construction techniques in the widest sense or that concerning the history, preservation and promotion of architectural heritage.

1-11: To contribute efficiently to developing destroyed and degraded cities and to improving living conditions for their inhabitants.

1-12: to strengthen the links between the Union and other international organisations.

Article 2: Means

The Union aims to achieve the above objectives by:

2-1: organising conferences and seminars relative to Mediterranean architecture.

2-2: publishing periodic reviews, reports and studies relative to architecture and town planning, focusing on the spread of technical, social and artistic research, as well as information relative to projects for completion, and thereby encouraging through the publication thereof the activities, opportunities and work of Mediterranean architects.

2-3: striving for the spread and development of architectural theory and practice teaching methods.

2-4: encouraging the creation of science and technology information centers for the construction industry, and the sharing of knowledge at Mediterranean and international level.

2.5: consolidating relations between the Union and international organisations to emphasize the Mediterranean identity at international events, while benefiting from other experiences.

2-6: studying national architectural topics and issues or those common to the Mediterranean Basin, and encouraging architectural research.

Article 3: Languages

The official languages of the Union are English and French. Any other language may be used at the request and the expense of the requesting Section.

Article 4: Registered Office, General Secretariat (Executive Office) and UMAR Delegate

4.1 The UMAR is registered in Malta as an International non-profit organization. All the bank accounts and financial assets of the UMAR will be located in Malta. This status should be maintained for an indefinite period of time.

This status can be changed subject to a formal motion presented for the consideration of the General Assembly as set out in the Regulations and approved by at least two thirds of the member sections attending the Assembly.

4.2 The Council will appoint a delegate of the UMAR in Malta to represent the Union as required by law for the purposes of retaining its NGO status and administering its assets. The UMAR will hold a legal address in Malta.

4.3 The General Secretariat (Executive Office) will be organized in a venue decided by the General Assembly for a renewable period of three years in accordance with the internal regulations of the Union.

Article 5: Term

The term of the Association is unlimited.

TITLE II: COMPOSITION

Article 6: Members of the association

6-1: A national Section that is representative of architects from countries in and around the Mediterranean Basin may be defined as a member of the Union.

6-2: An architects' organisation that is officially recognised by the national authorities of its country, and enjoying the greatest representativity, may be defined as national Section of the Union. That organisation may appoint one or more representatives of architects' organisations with lower representativity in terms of numbers.

6-3: In the case of two or more architects' organisations recognised by their national authorities and having the same representativity, these organisations shall agree among them on their representatives within the Union. In the event of disagreement, the national Section is represented by the organisation or the most representative grouping of organisations in terms of membership numbers.

Article 7: Union bodies The Union is composed of the following bodies:

- 1- The General Assembly
- 2- The Council of national Sections
- 3- The Bureau

TITLE III: OPERATING METHODS

Article 8: General Assembly

8-1: Definitions

8-1.1: The General Assembly is the supreme and sovereign administrative body of the Union.

8-1.2: The General Assembly consists of delegations representing the national Sections of the Union such as defined under article 6 of the articles of association.

8-1.3: Every national delegation consists of a head of delegation, who may be assisted by two delegated members. The head of delegation is the person appointed by the member Section to represent that section at the General Assembly. He is an architect and a member of the organization represented by the Section.

8-1.4: At the time of voting, each delegation may only have one vote expressed by the representative appointed by the national Section.

8-2: Meetings

8-2.1: The General Assembly meets once a year on a specific date and, in the case of face-to-face or hybrid format, in a venue decided upon by the Council of national Sections.

The General Assembly is convened at the very latest two (2) months in advance by the President or, in his forced absence, by the Secretary General.

8-2.2: The General Assembly will be able to meet in face-to-face format, online or in a hybrid format of the first two.

8-2.3: The General Assembly may be validly held on first call with a total attendance, face-to-face and online, of more than 50% of its member Sections with the right to vote.

This number should be increased to more than 2/3 of the member Sections (attending face-to-face and online) to deliberate and vote on any point that requires a qualified majority.

In both cases, a second call will be scheduled 24 hours later and there will be no limit of attendees to consider the General Assembly validly held.

8-2.4: At the request of at least one third of its members and subject to the same conditions in the preceding paragraph, the General Assembly will meet for an extraordinary session at the convocation of the President or in his/her forced absence of the Secretary General.

8-2.5: The draft agenda of the General Assembly is set by the Council and sent to its member Sections with the notice of meeting. The agenda is definitively set by the General Assembly.

In the case of an extraordinary meeting, the agenda is circulated with the notice convening the meeting.

8-3: Prerogatives of the General Assembly

Among other prerogatives, the General Assembly enjoys the following:

8-3.1: The formal acknowledgment of the new members of the Council and the elected members of the Bureau within the terms established in the statutes and internal rules.

8-3.2: Discussion and approval of the programmes and activities proposed by the Council.

8-3.3: Discussion and approval of the financial report and the provisional budget submitted by the Treasurer previously endorsed by the Finance Committee and the Council.

8-3.4: Approving the accounts of the previous year according to the provision of regulations.

8-3.5: Developing the recommendations and carrying the resolutions required for attaining the Union's objectives.

8-3.6: Approving the articles of association and internal regulations and amending them where necessary.

8-3.7: Deciding on the location of the Union's General Secretariat at the end of the applicable term.

8-3.8: Approving the admission, suspension or exclusion of members of the Union.

8-3.9: All resolutions of the General Assembly are carried by the simple majority of those present, except for those regarding paragraphs 8-3.6, 8-3.7 and 8-3.8, which require a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Union present at the General Assembly.

Article 9: The Council of National Sections

9-1: The Council of national Sections ("the Council") is created as the main governing body of the Union between General Assemblies.

9-2: Each member Section of the UMAR should appoint one member to Council and his/her alternate giving them support to carry out their duties.

9-3: The members of Council and their alternates are appointed for a renewable period of three (3) years.

Each member cannot be appointed to the Council for more than two consecutive times.

The members of the Council and their alternates will also represent the Union, consequently, they cannot simultaneously be national delegates to the General Assembly.

9-4: To have the right to vote in Council, members must belong to a national Section which is up to date with its annual fees to the UMAR. The Council may waive this condition in extraordinary circumstances with the vote of 2/3 of the members present, face-to-face or online.

9-5: The Council will decide its internal organization to carry out the work and projects of the UMAR and will be responsible for organizing a timetable with the meetings it deems necessary.

9-6: In the event of the resignation or unjustified inactivity of one member/alternate of Council, his/her respective national Section shall appoint the replacement member/alternate.

Article 10: The Bureau

10-1: Definition

10-1: The Bureau is composed of three (3) members:

- The President
- The Secretary General
- The Treasurer

The members of the Bureau belong to the Council and have the same voice and vote rights as the other members with the exception of the President, who will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

They will be responsible for their statutory missions as well as of the day-to-day running and management of the association under the directives of Council.

10-2: The President, Secretary General and Treasurer are elected by the Council among its members for a three-year term. All candidates to any of these posts must have the support of their respective member Section.

10-3: For eligibility as a candidate to the Bureau, the member must belong to a national Section which is up to date with its subscriptions unless the Council decides by qualified majority (2/3) to waive this condition.

The members of the Bureau, in the exercise of their respective positions, don't represent their national section but the Union, consequently, they cannot simultaneously be national delegates to the General Assembly.

10-4: The continuous absence of a member of the Bureau from three (3) consecutive meetings except for reasons accepted by the Council, shall warrant his or her resignation de facto. He/she will continue as member of the Council and the conditions established in article 9-6 will apply.

10-5: In the event of resignation of a member of the Bureau, the Council will elect the member to replace him/her.

Article 11: Prerogatives of the Council

11-1: Based on the proposal of the Bureau, the Council shall decide the format, the specific date and in case of hybrid or presential meetings, the venue of the General Assembly.

11-2: The Council shall ensure the execution of the resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly.

11-3: The Council shall be responsible for setting the draft agenda of the General Assembly.

11-4: The Council shall propose to the General Assembly the admission of a new member or the suspension or exclusion of an existing member of the Union.

11-5: The Council shall report the Union's projects and activity programmes to the General Assembly.

11-6: The Council will have the legal capacity to negotiate partnership agreements on behalf of UMAR

11-7: The President, on behalf of the Council should present the annual report of the Union to the General Assembly.

11-7: The Council should organise all types of activities including conferences, seminars, meetings, projects, etc. falling within the scope of the association's objectives.

11-8: The Council shall approve Thematic Committees or individuals that will be tasked with specific activities, responsibilities, missions and title, within the general structure of UMAR.

11-9: The Council may occasionally, and as necessary, invite experts that can contribute to the running of the Union to take part in its own and/or the General Assembly meetings.

11-10: The Council shall seek the participation of the member Sections to appoint Union representatives to the various international events.

11-11: Fulfilling all the missions required for attaining the Union's objectives.

Article 12: Functions of members of the Bureau

12-1: The President

12-1.1: The President represents the Union in all dealings with national and international organizations, in all legal matters and in all acts of civil life. He concludes agreements and contracts in accordance with the Union's activity programmes.

12-1.2: The President or, in his/her forced absence, the Secretary General, convenes ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the Council following the decisions made by said Council.

12-1.3: The President, assisted by the Secretary General, chairs the General Assembly and the Council meetings.

12-2: The Secretary General

12-2.1: The Secretary General organizes the secretariat and oversees the activities thereof.

12-2.2: The Secretary General assists the President as chairman of the meetings of the Council and of the General Assembly and is responsible for coordinating them as well as for the drafting of the corresponding minutes.

12-3: The Treasurer

12-3.1: The Treasurer, is responsible for managing the Union's finances and seeking opportunities to generate income to finance the said Union, assisted by the Finance Committee and under the direction of the Council in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

12-3.2: The Treasurer, assisted by the Finance Committee, is responsible of preparing the provisional budget and submitting it to the Council and to the General Assembly.

12-3.3: The Treasurer is responsible for Submitting the annual accounts to the Council and to the General Assembly.

12-3.4: For the purposes of administering the financial assets the Treasurer shall be assisted by the UMAR Delegate in Malta as required.

Article 13: Meetings

13-1: The Council and the Bureau will meet together according to the calendar established by the Council. Meetings can be held face-to-face, online or in a hybrid format.

13-2: The sessions of the Council may be validly held regardless of the number of members attending, provided that the rest of the members have been fully informed of the aforementioned meeting and of the issues to be discussed at least one week in advance and there are no objections raised by a simple majority of the members of the Council.

13.3: The resolutions of the Council are taken by majority vote of the members attending the meeting with the President having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Article 14: Honorary Members

The General Assembly may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, give the title of Honorary Member of the Union to any person of its choosing for exceptional services rendered to Mediterranean architecture.

TITLE IV: ASSOCIATION RESOURCES - BUDGET

Article 15: Financial resources

The Union's financial resources come from:

15-1: Annual contributions made by the national Sections, as proposed by the Treasurer to the Council in the provisional budget of the Union and from any other additional source of resources admitted under the NGO statute.

Article 16: Provisional budget

The Union's provisional budget is proposed by the Treasurer to the Council and voted on by the General Assembly.

16-1: Operating budget: includes the operating expenses of the Secretariat, the Bureau, the Council and the Thematic Committees and individuals appointed by the Council.

16-2: Action budget: covers each activity or project in the Union's action budget and comprises a Finance Plan with an execution schedule.

TITLE V RESIGNATION - LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS - DISSOLUTION

Article 17: Resignation

A member section of the Union may resign in writing to the President of the Union. Nevertheless, its resignation shall only become effective following approval by the next General Assembly. The resigning section is not entitled to a refund of any share of its contribution.

Article 18: Loss of membership status

Aside from resignation, membership status may be lost by expulsion, decided upon by the Council, for non-payment of the annual contribution for three (3) consecutive years, for serious grounds or evident disinterest in the activities of the association, the member section having been invited to submit an explanation. The member section is informed thereof immediately, and the Assembly should vote on the decision of the Council at its next meeting.

Article 19: Dissolution

The Union is declared dissolved when the General Assembly decides to dissolve it by a qualified majority of 2/3 of the member Sections. In case of dissolution, the General Assembly will designate a liquidator who will carry out the liquidation of funds and the settlement of debts of the Union. Under no circumstances may any share of Union property be attributed to Union members, except for the refund of their contributions. Any surplus assets shall be appropriated to one or more other associations pursuing similar goals and designated by name by the General Assembly.

TITLE VI INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 20: Records

The Union holds records of the General Assembly's' deliberations to which all votes and resolutions are consigned. The Union also holds records of the Council, Executive Bureau and Thematic Committees' resolutions and activity reports. The minutes are kept in electronic format accessible by all member Sections.

Article 21: Thematic Committees

The Council shall approve the constitution of Thematic Committees upon presentation of their objectives, participants, calendar, budget and coordinator. The coordinators of the Thematic Committees will regularly submit to Council a report on their activities. Council members can participate in the meetings of the Thematic Committees.

Article 22: Observers

The Council may occasionally invite to non-member Sections, groups or individual persons as observers to the Council or to the General Assembly meetings providing no member Section objects to the proposed observer.

Article 23: Internal regulations

The Council may establish additional internal rules to cover the points not provided herein, notably those concerning the practical activities of the association. It shall seek ratification thereof by simple majority at the General Assembly.