

Twenty Ninth World YWCA Council
17th - 22nd November, 2019
Johannesburg, South Africa

Amendments to the World YWCA Constitution

Below are the proposed amendments to the [World YWCA Constitution](#), as submitted by Member Associations and the World Board. As per the Constitution articles 86-88, the proposed amendments are to be shared with member associations six months prior to World Council, and shall be put forward as an item of business at the World Council business meeting.

Please consider them carefully as member associations will be asked to vote on these amendments. If you are reviewing the Spanish or French versions of the proposed amendments, please note that the English text of the amendments adopted at World Council will be the official version for all legal purposes.

Proposed constitutional amendments to the World YWCA Constitution (For approval)

1. YWCA THE NETHERLANDS

Current constitutional provision:

Founded by women from Christian traditions around the world, the World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) is based on faith in God the Almighty, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

(World YWCA Constitution, Preamble)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Founded by women from Christian traditions around the world, the World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) is based on **Christian values and welcomes those of all beliefs and traditions.**

2. YWCA THE NETHERLANDS

Current constitutional provision:

Article 3: The World YWCA is founded and inspired by Christian faith.

(World YWCA Constitution, Basis: Article 3)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 3: The World YWCA is founded and inspired by Christian faith. **World YWCA welcomes those of all believes and traditions.**

3. WORLD YWCA BOARD

Current constitutional provision:

Article 3: The World YWCA is founded and inspired by Christian faith.

(World YWCA Constitution, Basis: Article 3)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 3: The World YWCA is **a charitable organisation** founded on and inspired by the Christian faith.

4. YWCA CAMEROON

Current constitutional provision:

Proposed constitutional amendment:

New article before article 9

Full membership to any regional YWCA structure duly legalized in the country hosting its headquarters and enjoying the same autonomy as the national member associations of the World YWCA.

5. WORLD YWCA BOARD

Current constitutional provision:

Article 22: Notice of an ordinary WC meeting shall be sent to MAs at least eighteen (18) months before the meeting.

Article 23: The agenda of an ordinary WC meeting shall be sent to MAs at least six (6) months before the meeting.

Article 70: A list of candidates shall be distributed to member associations at least four (4) months before the World Council meeting.

Article 86: At least twelve (12) months before the World Council Meeting, the World Board may propose an amendment, or a member association may propose an amendment to the World Board.

Article 87. At least six (6) months notice of a proposed amendment shall be given to all member associations.

(World YWCA Constitution, Articles 22, 23, 70, 86, 87)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 22: Notice of an ordinary WC meeting shall be sent to MAs at least **twelve (12)** months before the meeting.

Article 23: The agenda of an ordinary WC meeting shall be sent to MAs at least **three (3)** months before the meeting.

Article 70: A list of candidates shall be distributed to member associations at least **two (2)** months before the World Council meeting.

Article 86: At least **ten (10)** months before the World Council Meeting, the World Board may propose an amendment, or a member association may propose an amendment to the World Board.

Article 87. At least **four (4)** months notice of a proposed amendment shall be given to all member associations.

6. YWCA YMCA SWITZERLAND & WORLD YWCA BOARD

Current constitutional provision:

Proposed constitutional amendment:

New article after Article 23

Article 24: **The draft of the minutes of a WC meeting shall be sent to all members no later than six (6) months after the meeting.**

7. YWCA CANADA

Current constitutional provision:

Article 24: An extraordinary meeting of the World Council shall be convened if:

- a. one-fifth (1/5) of the member associations or the World Board make a written request for the extraordinary meeting, stating the objectives of the meeting; and
- b. three (3) months notice has been given to all member associations.

(World YWCA Constitution, Article 24)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 24: An extraordinary meeting of the World Council shall be convened if:

- a. one-fifth (1/5) of the member associations or the World Board make a written request for the extraordinary meeting, stating the objectives of the meeting; and

b. An extraordinary meeting of WC may be held by means of such telephone, electronic, or other communication facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously.

- c. three (3) months notice has been given to all member associations.

8. YWCA YMCA SWITZERLAND

Current constitutional provision:

Proposed constitutional amendment:

New article after article 26

Article 27: Decisions .subject to the jurisdiction of the WC may be made outside a WC Meeting by electronic means without a physical meeting under the following conditions:

a. It was adopted by a WC Meeting that this particular issue shall be decided by circular resolution or online voting.

Or

b. The online voting or circular decision is requested by the board or one fifth (1/5) of the members and announced at least three (3) months in advance.

c. For an online voting / a circular decision the quorum is reached in accordance with Art. 26.

d. The voting procedure according to (Art. 28 - 32) is followed.

e. Elections and amendments to the constitution are excluded from online voting / circular decision, as they must be carried out at a WC meeting in any case.

f. The result of an online voting/a circular decision - including details of the quorum, votes in favour, votes against and abstentions - must be sent to all MAs within three (3) months since the resolution being passed.

9. YWCA CANADA

Current constitutional provision:

Proposed constitutional amendment:

New article after article 31

Article 32: Proxy voting may be allowed at a WC ordinary or extraordinary meeting only for resolutions pertaining to Section 11, (member affiliation, change in membership status, member suspension or member disaffiliation), Section 83 (World YWCA dissolution), or Section 84 (constitution amendment). The proxy voting procedures shall be established by the WB and communicated to members together with notice of the relevant Section 11, 83 or 84 resolution(s).

10. YWCA YMCA DENMARK AND YWCA YMCA NORWAY

Current constitutional provision:

Article 42: The President shall preside at meetings of the World Council and the World Board. She shall perform the other duties of the office. She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and sub-committees.

(World YWCA Constitution, Article 42)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 42: The President shall preside at meetings of ~~the World Council and~~ the World Board. She shall perform the other duties of the office. She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and sub-committees.

11. YWCA CANADA

Current constitutional provision:

Article 63: The Nominations Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, each from a different region, at least two (2) of whom shall be aged thirty (30) years or under at the time of election. Two Nominations Committee members shall be World Board members.

(World YWCA Constitution, Article 63)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 63: The Nominations Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, each from a different region, at least two (2) of whom shall be aged thirty (30) years or under at the time of election. ~~Two Nominations Committee members shall be World Board members.~~

12. WORLD YWCA BOARD

Current constitutional provision:

Article 63: The Nominations Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, each from a different region, at least two (2) of whom shall be aged thirty (30) years or under at the time of election. Two Nominations Committee members shall be World Board members.

(World YWCA Constitution, Article 63)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

The Nominations Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, each from a different region, at least two (2) of whom shall be aged thirty (30) years or under at the time of election. **One (1) Nominations Committee member shall be a World Board member.**

13. YWCA CANADA

Current constitutional provision:

Article 73: The World Board members and the Nominations Committee members shall be elected by ballot at the World Council meeting by a majority vote.

(World YWCA Constitution, Article 73)

Proposed constitutional amendment:

Article 73: The World Board members and the Nominations Committee members shall be elected by ballot at the WC meeting by a majority vote **unless the candidate for that position is running unopposed, in which case the candidate will be elected by acclamation.**