

Statutes of The International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC Global)

Preamble

These Statutes apply only to the Global Organisation of the International Organisation for Biological Control except where specific reference is made to Regional Sections. Any statutes or by-laws of Regional Sections must be compatible with these Statutes.

Article I

Name and seat

1. The name of the Organisation, which is an association affiliated to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), shall be "The International Organisation for Biological Control" (IOBC), hereinafter referred to as "the Organisation".
2. The seat of the Organisation shall be in Zürich, Switzerland. The Secretariat of the Organisation may be in any country.
3. The Organisation is a legal entity pursuant to Art. 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.
4. **The Organisation is a not-for profit, non-governmental entity**

Article II

Functions

1. The Organisation shall:
 - (a) promote the development of biological control and its application in integrated control programmes, and international cooperation to these ends. **In these Statutes the term "biological control" means the actions of living organisms to prevent or reduce the losses or harm caused by pest organisms;**
 - (b) collect, evaluate and disseminate information about biological control;
 - (c) promote national and international actions concerning research and training of personnel, the coordination of large-scale application and the encouragement of public awareness of the economic and social importance of biological control;
 - (d) arrange conferences, meetings and symposia, and take any other action to implement the general objectives of the Organisation.
2. The Organisation may consult, collaborate, or make agreements with international or national governmental or non-governmental organisations.

Article III

Membership

1. Membership of the Organisation shall be open to all individuals and all organisations, public or private, that desire to promote the objectives of the Organisation.
2. There shall be four categories of membership, individual, institutional, supporting and honorary. Individual membership is open to all individuals engaged or interested in biological control. Institutional membership is open to any institution, including government departments, academies of science, universities, institutes and societies, participating in biological control activities. Supporting membership

is open to any person or institution interested in promoting the objectives of the Organisation. Honorary membership may be conferred by Council upon anyone who has made outstanding contributions to biological control.

Article IV

Application for membership

1. Application for individual or supporting membership shall be made to the appropriate Regional Section of the Organisation. An applicant may request affiliation to any Regional Section.
2. Application for institutional membership shall be made to the appropriate Regional Section.
3. The Executive Committee of the Regional Section decides on the admission and shall determine the appropriate category of membership of each applicant.

Article V

Withdrawal of Membership

1. Members may resign by giving notice to the Executive Committee of the Regional Section.
2. The Regional Section may deprive of benefits any member whose contribution is in arrears, and may expel this member.

Article VI

Budget

1. The total revenue available to the Organisation shall be derived from the annual contributions paid by members to the Regional Sections and funds from other sources.
2. The membership contribution shall be agreed between the Executive Committees of the Organisation and each Regional Section for each category of members. Payment of these contribution shall be made to the Executive Committee of the Organisation by the appropriate Regional Section.
3. The financial period shall consist of four years terminating on December 31 of the year preceding that in which a General Assembly is held. The Treasurer shall report on the financial period to the General Assembly.
4. The funds of the Organisation are to be used exclusively for promoting the mission of the Organisation and after agreement by the Executive Committee.

Article VII

General structure

The Organisation shall comprise the members and the following statutory bodies:

- (a) the General Assembly;
- (b) the Council;
- (c) the Executive Committee
- (d) the Regional Sections;
- (e) other bodies that the Council deems necessary.

Article VIII

General Assembly

1. The General Assembly, which is open to all members, shall meet approximately every four years, preferably in conjunction with international congresses. The General Assembly may meet in special session if at least one fifth of the members so request or if the Council so decides.
2. The place and date of the General Assembly shall be fixed by the Council and announced at least one year in advance. The agenda shall be prepared by the Council.
3. The General Assembly elects for a term of four years the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary-General. Not more than two of these shall be of the same country. With the exception of the Secretary-General and the Treasurer they are not eligible for a second consecutive term in the same office.
4. The General Assembly decides on any modification to the Statutes.
5. The purposes of the General Assembly are the provision of information on the affairs of the Organisation, and the provision of opportunities for members to express opinions on the activities of the Organisation and to make recommendations to the Council.
6. Non-member organisations with an interest in biological control may be invited to send observers to the General Assembly, but such observers shall have no vote.
7. Voting by email and postal ballot is permitted and is obligatory for elections, changes of Statutes and the dissolution of the Organisation.

Article IX

Council

1. The Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee and one representative from each Regional Section, all of whom shall be members of the Organisation.
2. The Council may invite any expert to participate in its meetings in an advisory capacity.
3. The Council shall be convened as appropriate and preferably at least once every two years.
4. The Council shall assist with the functioning of the Organisation, and in particular for:
 - a) stimulating international cooperation;
 - b) providing advice and information;
 - c) promoting and approving the establishment of Regional Sections and coordinating interregional activities;
 - d) developing cooperative programmes with other international organisations;
 - e) presenting progress reports and programmes of activity annually to members and to each General Assembly;
 - f) agreeing with the budget;

- g) agreeing with the agenda of the General Assembly;
 - h) agreeing with the organisation of votes by email and/or postal ballot.
5. The Council may establish services of general interest to members, particularly relating to documentation, information and publication, and may act in such other ways as will promote the objectives of the Organisation.
 6. The Council shall formulate and amend By-Laws.
 7. All decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the meeting may cast the deciding vote.
 8. The Council adopts its own rules of procedure and designates the persons entitled to sign on behalf of the Organisation.

Article X

Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the immediate Past-President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary-General.
2. Should a position become vacant between elections, the Executive Committee may appoint a member to serve in that position for the unexpired period.
3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for implementing the decisions of the Council and shall meet when necessary and convenient. The Executive Committee shall account for its actions to the Council, and shall seek its approval for any emergency action taken.

Article XI

Regional Sections

1. The establishment of a Regional Section shall be considered by the Council for any part of the world on the request of at least three institutional Members or of at least 15 individual members from more than one country, located in the region concerned. Insofar as proves practicable, Regional Sections shall be based on biogeographical zones. However, community of interests, scientific and economic resources, and other aspects may influence decisions as to the number and size of Regional Sections.
2. Regional Sections shall be autonomous in respect of structure, finance, procedure and activities, subject only to compatibility with the Statutes of the Organisation and the general policy of the Council.
3. The Statutes and By-Laws of Regional Sections and amendments to them shall be submitted to Council for approval.
4. Each Regional Section shall appoint a representative to the Council. The cost of attendance of such a representative at Council meetings shall be borne by the Regional Section.

Article XII

Votes concerning election of the Executive Committee of the Organisation, budget proposals, statutes, by-laws and dissolution of the Organisation

1. Individual and Honorary Members, and non-commercial **Supporting Members** shall have one vote each. Institutional Members shall have 10 votes each. **Commercial Supporting Members shall have no vote.**
2. Voting members may exercise their right to vote only if they have met their financial obligations towards the Organisation.
3. At Council meetings all voting members (Executive Committee and Representatives of Regional Sections) shall have one vote each.
4. Results shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast, except for changes in the Statutes and the dissolution of the Organisation for which a two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required.

Article XIII

Quorum

1. A quorum at Council meetings shall consist of not less than half the members of the Council.
2. At meetings of the Executive Committee, three members (normally including the President and the Secretary-General) constitute a quorum.

Article XIV

Decisions on matters of basic importance

1. Matters of basic importance to the Organisation, including the election of the officers of the Organisation and amendments to the Statutes are to be determined by the General Assembly. Unless otherwise stated (Art. XV), such matters with any recommendations and/or relevant documents including the ballot paper are to be submitted to the members for consideration at least four months before the General Assembly or before the ballot is closed.

Article XV

Amendments to Statutes

1. Proposed amendments to the Statutes may be initiated by the Council, and may be suggested to Council by any Regional Section or any 15 members.
2. Proposed amendments to the Statutes shall be communicated with any recommendations and/or relevant documents by the Council to the members at least one year before the General Assembly or the close of the postal ballot.

Article XVI

Status of personnel

1. Members of statutory bodies shall receive no payment for services.
2. Members of statutory bodies attending official meetings of the Organisation or of other organisations on behalf of the Organisation may receive justifiable travelling and accommodation expenses
3. The Council may engage appropriate staff and services.

Article XVII

Dissolution of the Organisation

1. On the dissolution of the Organisation its assets shall be assigned to the International Union of Biological Sciences.

Article XVIII

Adoption of Statutes

1. The first Statutes have been adopted at the foundation meeting on March 30 and 31, 1971 in Rome. They became effective on March 31, 1971. The English text shall be authoritative in respect of any disputes arising from interpretation of the Statutes. The Statutes have been deposited in the Federal Archives of the Swiss Confederation under number J.11.75.
2. One amendment has been made to the first Statutes in July 1988 during the General Assembly in Vancouver, Canada, where Institutional Members were given 10 votes each, instead of only 1 vote.
3. Several amendments have been made during the years 2008 – 2016 and were accepted during the General Assembly in Orlando, USA.
4. During the General Assembly in July 2022 (Helsinki, Finland) amendments are proposed related to the not-for profit / non-governmental status of the organisation, the meaning of the term biological control, the re-election of the treasurer and non-commercial Supporting Members shall have one vote each, whereas commercial Supporting Members shall have no vote.

J.C. van Lenteren, Secretary General IOBC Global, 23 June 2022, Delft, The Netherlands