

Statutes
of the association
International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC-Global)
with seat in Zürich

Preamble

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

Article 1 Name and seat

1. The “International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC-Global)”, which was established in 1971, is an association according to Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code (hereinafter referred to as “Organisation”).
2. The Organisation has its seat in Zürich (Switzerland).
3. The Secretariat may be in the country where the Secretary General is resident.

Article 2 Scope and Objectives

1. The Organisation shall:
 - (a) promote the development of biological control and its application in integrated control programmes, and promote international cooperation to these ends;
 - (b) collect, evaluate and disseminate information about biological control;
 - (c) promote national and international actions concerning research and training, coordination of large-scale application and the encouragement of public awareness of the economic, ecological 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.
3. The Organisation pursues neither profit-making nor self-help purposes.
4. The Organisation is a not-for profit, non-governmental entity.

Article 3 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 4 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 5 Withdrawal of Membership

1. Members may resign from the Organisation 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 6 Finances

1. The total revenue available to the Organisation shall be derived from the annual contributions paid by members to the Regional Sections and from donations.
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. Only the assets of the Organisation may be used to cover its obligations. Personal liability of its members is excluded.

Article 7 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 8 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 General Assembly decides on the dissolution of the Organisation (cf. Article 17).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The General Assembly may be held as a physical meeting, in the form of a written vote, in the form of an electronic vote or as an electronic meeting. The General Assembly can also be held as a mixed (hybrid) physical and electronic meeting. In the case of an electronic meeting, it must be ensured that the image and sound of all participating members are transmitted. The Council shall decide on the form in which the meeting is to be held.

Article 9 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 collaboration;
 - (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, postal ballot, online meeting, hybrid meeting or physical meeting.

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 10 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 11 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 of the Organisation 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 12 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 13 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 14 Decisions on matters of basic importance

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 (Article 15), such matters with any recommendations and/or relevant documents including the ballot paper are to be submitted to the members for consideration at least three months before the General Assembly or before a ballot is closed.

Article 15 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 three months before the General Assembly.

Article 16 Status of personnel

1. Members of statutory bodies shall receive no payment for services, except the allowances mentioned in Article 16.2.

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 17 Dissolution of the Organisation

On the dissolution of the Organisation its assets shall be assigned to a not-for profit organization pursuing public interest goals similar to those of the IOBC-Global, based in Switzerland and with global activities. Under no circumstances should the assets be returned to the founders or members of the Organisation.

Article 18 Notifications

1. Notifications to the members of the Organisation shall be made by letter, e-mail or any other form that allows proof by text.
2. Convocations of the general meetings of the Organisation are considered as notifications.

Version 24 June 2024, J.C. van Lenteren, Secretary General IOBC-Global