

World Psychiatric Association

Statutes

(including amendments made at the virtual WPA General Assembly held on 16 October 2020)

Section I – Definition of the Association and of its Members

Item 1 – Name, Registered Office, Legal Status

The World Psychiatric Association (“hereafter WPA”) is a not-for-profit association established under the laws of Switzerland (Swiss civil code). Its registered office is in the territory of Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, at the address decided by its Executive Committee.

The implementation of the WPA Statutes may be precised and detailed by the By-Laws adopted by its General Assembly.

Item 2 – Purposes:

The purposes of the WPA are to:

- (i) Increase knowledge and skills necessary for work in the field of mental health and in the care for people with mental disorders/mental illness, substance use disorders and related disability.
- (ii) Promote the application of public health principles in the fields of psychiatry and mental health.
- (iii) Support action to prevent mental disorders.
- (iv) Support action to promote mental health.
- (v) Support action to diagnose and manage comorbidity between physical and mental illnesses/mental disorders.
- (vi) Advocate and apply ethical principles and the observance of human rights of people with mental illnesses/mental disorders and their carers and families in care, research and teaching.
- (vii) Ensure equity as well as parity (non-discrimination) in the access to and the quality of care and in other areas of life of people with mental illnesses/mental disorders.
- (viii) Promote the development and observance of the highest quality standards in psychiatric care, teaching and research.
- (ix) Protect the professional rights of psychiatrists.

The WPA will achieve these purposes by:

- (a) Advancing cooperation among WPA Member Societies and components;
- (b) Supporting the principle of gender equality within the psychiatric profession and the patient population
- (c) Achieving appropriate gender and geographical balance in its activities proportionate to the profession

- (d) Facilitating international exchanges of information within the psychiatric and mental health fields;
- (e) Cooperating with national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations active in fields relevant to WPA purposes;
- (f) Organizing Congresses of Psychiatry and other meetings on matters relevant to WPA purposes;
- (g) Developing and disseminating statements relevant to psychiatry and mental health publications;
- (h) Developing educational programs and materials within the fields of psychiatry and mental health for psychiatrists, physicians, other mental health workers and the public at large;
- (i) Initiating and supporting the development of continuing medical education systems in collaboration with WPA Member Societies and other pertinent institutions;
- (j) Promoting and conducting collaborative research related to mental health and mental illnesses;
- (k) Establishing task forces to deal with specific psychiatric and mental health issues;
- (l) Raising funds and accepting donations;
- (m) Combating stigma and its consequences;
- (n) Conducting other activities harmonious with achieving the purposes of the WPA.

Item 3 – Languages:

The English text of these Statutes is binding.

English will be the language of the WPA. The use of other language may be requested provided the request is made in adequate time and related costs will be paid by the entity that has made the request.

Item 4 – WPA Logo:

The logo of the WPA consists of a representation of the Greek letter *psi in red* and the earth globe. The logo may be supplemented by the name of the Association in English or any other relevant languages in the way specified in item 6 and by the website address of the Association.

Item 5 – WPA Member Societies:

Psychiatric Societies whose goals and ethical standards are consonant with the current WPA ethical standards as specified in the Manual of Procedures are eligible for full membership in the WPA if they submit an official application in accordance with the WPA By-laws.

A Psychiatric Society is a medical society concerned with the prevention and treatment of mental disorders and with the promotion of mental health.

To be considered for admission as a WPA Member Society, a psychiatric society must be national in scope, must deal with the whole field of psychiatry, must have been active for three years in its country and should be legally recognized. If there are reasons why it is not legally recognized, then the application may still be considered. Another society from the same country, satisfying the above criteria, may be eligible for membership of the WPA provided that there is no more than 5% overlap of membership of the two societies.

The WPA reserves the right not to admit a Psychiatric Society as a WPA Member Society.

Societies dealing with the whole field of psychiatry with mixed membership of psychiatrists and non-psychiatrists may be admitted to membership with fees and voting strength determined by the number of psychiatrists.

Regional associations with a majority of members residing in countries that do not have a psychiatric society may be eligible for admission in the WPA. The relevant provisions applicable to national societies apply to the extent accordingly.

The decision to admit a Psychiatric Society in the WPA is made by the WPA General Assembly by a simple majority of votes of those present and voting on the recommendation of the WPA Executive Committee.

Termination of membership in the WPA can be effected by resignation. Apart from that, termination or suspension can be effected by a decision of the WPA General Assembly, with a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Non-payment of dues for three-consecutive years will lead to the submission of a proposal to the WPA General Assembly for termination.

Failure to cooperate or respond to a request from the Ethics and Review Committee in investigating ethical complaints may lead to expulsion from the WPA.

In exceptional circumstances the WPA Executive Committee may suspend a WPA Member Society in accordance with the provisions of the WPA By-laws.

Item 6 – WPA Affiliated Associations:

Associations and international federations of societies with goals that are consonant with those of the WPA and that are not eligible as WPA Member Societies may be accepted as WPA Affiliated Associations by the WPA General Assembly and in accordance with the By-laws. The decision to accept an Affiliated Association is made by the WPA General Assembly by a simple majority of those present and voting. Representatives of Affiliated Associations can attend WPA formal meetings, but do not have the right to vote.

Decisions about the suspension or termination of their status as WPA Affiliated Association can be made by the WPA General Assembly with a simple majority of those present and voting. The WPA Executive Committee may suspend the WPA affiliated membership of an Association if it considers that its continuing membership could impede the achievement of WPA's purposes.

Item 7 – WPA Special Individual Members, WPA Affiliated Individual Members and WPA Fellows

Admission of WPA Special and WPA Affiliated Membership or WPA Fellowship are effected by decision of the WPA Executive Committee. Individual psychiatrists who are members of a WPA

Member Society do not need to apply to become a Special Individual Member because they are part of a WPA Member Society

- A. WPA Special Individual Members: A qualified psychiatrist may apply for Special Individual Membership of the WPA if he/she resides in a country without a WPA Member Society. This provision shall not affect the status of already admitted WPA Special Individual Members.
- B. WPA Affiliated Individual Members: Other health professionals and scientists may apply to become WPA Affiliated Individual Members.
- C. WPA Fellows: Special Individual Members in good standing for five years who have made important contributions to the goals of the WPA can apply to become Fellows of the WPA.

WPA Special and WPA Affiliated Individual Members as well as WPA Fellows are expected to participate in the activities and scientific meetings of the WPA, to share the goals of the WPA and to adhere to the current WPA ethical standards as specified in the Manual of Procedures.

WPA Special and WPA Affiliated Individual Members and Fellows of the WPA are entitled to receive information directly related on the activities of the WPA, and will receive other services in accordance to the By-laws, and to the decisions of the WPA Executive Committee.

WPA Special and WPA Affiliated Individual Members as well as WPA Fellows have no voting rights.

Termination of WPA Special and WPA Affiliated Membership or WPA Fellowship can be effected by resignation or decision of the WPA Executive Committee.

Item 8 – WPA Honorary Members, WPA Honorary Fellows and WPA Presidential Commendations:

The WPA General Assembly may confer WPA Honorary Membership and WPA Honorary Fellowship.

- A. WPA Honorary Membership may be conferred upon individuals who have excelled in their service to the World Psychiatric Association.
- B. WPA Honorary Fellowship can be conferred upon individuals who have made a very important contribution to the achievements of the WPA goals.

WPA Honorary Members and WPA Honorary Fellows can attend the WPA General Assembly as observers, but do not have the right to vote.

Termination of WPA Honorary Membership or Honorary Fellowship can be effected by resignation or by decision of the WPA General Assembly by a simple majority of votes.

The WPA President can, after consultation with the WPA Executive Committee, confer a WPA presidential commendation to individuals who contributed in a significant manner in the work of the WPA.

Section II - The WPA General Assembly

Item 9 – Definition and Composition:

The WPA General Assembly is the governing body of the WPA.

The WPA General Assembly is composed of the delegates of the WPA Member Societies. Only the Member Societies who are up to date with their membership dues have the right to vote.

The WPA President chairs the WPA General Assembly. In his or her absence it will be chaired by the WPA President-Elect and in the absence of both, by a member of the WPA Executive Committee. The members of the WPA Executive Committee and WPA Board shall attend the WPA Assembly on an ex-officio basis, without the right to vote but have the right to speak upon invitation by the Chairperson.

Delegates of the WPA Member Societies who are up to date with their membership, Members of the WPA Council, WPA Honorary Members, WPA Honorary Fellows, WPA Scientific Section Chairpersons or their representatives, members of the WPA Standing Committees, representatives of full and ad-hoc WPA Affiliated Associations and ad-hoc WPA Member Societies, may attend the WPA General Assembly as observers. They have no right to vote but may speak at the invitation by the Chairperson.

If the President needs to discuss reports or actions that are likely to involve confidential and highly sensitive information, the President may call the WPA General Assembly into an Executive Session. The Delegates and Members of the WPA Executive Committee may attend the Executive Session. Executive Sessions may include Board and Council Members at the discretion of the President.

Item 10 – Meetings of the WPA General Assembly:

General Assemblies may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.

The WPA Ordinary General Assembly meets every third year in conjunction with a WPA Congress of Psychiatry.

A WPA Ordinary General Assembly will be considered valid when at least one third of the WPA Member Societies are represented when first convened. If there is no initial quorum, the WPA General Assembly be convened again within 24 hours and will then be considered valid whatever be the number of WPA Member Societies represented.

A WPA Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened at any time by the WPA Executive Committee or at the request of one fifth of the WPA Member Societies, or at the request of more than half of the Board Members. The Assembly will be considered valid when at least one third of the WPA Member Societies are represented.

Item 11 – WPA Accreditation Committee:

The WPA Accreditation Committee meets the day previous to the WPA General Assembly and validates the delegates of the WPA Member Societies and other participants in the Assembly. It recommends to the General Assemblies the voting strength allocated to them, in accordance with the Statutes and By-laws.

The WPA Accreditation Committee consists of four members, including the WPA Secretary General who will chair it, the WPA Secretary for Finances and two more members appointed by the WPA President in consultation with the WPA Executive Committee.

Item 12 – Agenda

The WPA Executive Committee draws the agenda to be placed before the WPA General Assembly.

Item 13 – Voting process:

(a) Each WPA Member Society up to date with its membership dues is entitled at least to one vote. In countries where there is more than one Member Society there should be no more than a 5% overlap of membership between the Societies.

(b) For certain matters (specified in item 9 (c)) the WPA Member Society with (paid) membership over 25 is entitled (i) to one additional vote when the total membership is between 26 and 50; (ii) to one additional vote for each group of 50 dues paying members between 51-500; (iii) to one additional vote for each group of 100 dues paying members between 501 and 1500; (iv) to one additional vote for each 200 dues paying members above 1501 up to a maximum of 5000 members and 40 votes. In addition, those Member Societies with (paid) membership between 10,001 and 25,000 votes will be allocated 50 votes, and those with (paid) membership above 25,000 will be allocated 60 votes. The distribution of voting strength is listed in the following table.

Unless stated differently, all decisions of the WPA General Assembly will be made by a simple majority vote of the WPA Member Societies present and with voting rights. There will be no voting by proxy.

The WPA General Assembly may decide by a show of hands or by secret ballot on all questions on the Agenda (other than elections). The elections will be done by secret ballot. If a request for a secret ballot or for a roll call is made for any other item, the WPA General Assembly will decide on the issue by a simple majority.

(c) The assignment of voting strength described in (b) shall apply to actions of the WPA General Assembly pertaining to elections, approval of Strategic, Financial and Action Plans, setting of dues, amendments to the WPA Statutes and WPA By-laws, and dissolution of the WPA as an association.

(d) In all other instances, including ethical matters, admission of new WPA Member Societies, sanctions and expulsions of WPA Member Societies, and policy resolutions or position statements, each WPA Member Society eligible to vote in the WPA General Assembly shall have one vote only.

(e) The WPA Executive Committee draws up the Agenda of the WPA General Assembly, which is sent to the WPA Member Societies four months prior to that event. Requests for inclusion of additional items must be submitted to the WPA Secretary General three months before the WPA General Assembly is due to convene, so that the WPA Secretary General can timely inform the Member Societies about them.

(f) Where, as a consequence of events external to the WPA the President having consulted the Executive Committee considers that a decision of the General Assembly or Board is urgent and therefore required before the next General Assembly or Board meeting, the decision may be taken by means of electronic mail. A Member Society which does not vote electronically shall be held to have abstained. Any such use of electronic mail will be reported to the General Assembly.

(g) Where, as a consequence of events external to the WPA it is not possible to hold the General Assembly the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, may decide that the elections which would have taken place at the General Assembly should be carried out using electronic voting. Other agenda items for the General Assembly which require urgent decisions may be carried out by electronic mail using electronic voting if necessary. A Member Society which does not vote electronically shall be held to have abstained.

The results of a General Assembly vote shall be sent by email or other means of communication as determined by the Executive Committee within 48 hours to the President and General Secretary of each Member Society. Any such use of electronic voting or electronic mail will be reported to the next General Assembly.

The WPA General Assembly following the recommendations of the Accreditation Committee will confirm the number of votes granted to each Member Society

Item 14 – Functions of the WPA General Assembly:

The WPA General Assembly:

- (a) Determines the policies of the WPA.
- (b) Decides on the admission of WPA Member Societies and WPA Affiliated Associations and on the termination of their membership or affiliation.
- (c) Sets the membership dues which they review every three years and approves the accounts of the Association closed at the 31st of December of the previous year, upon recommendation of the WPA Executive Committee.
- (d) Receives the reports of the WPA Executive Committee concerning the work of the WPA.
- (e) Elects on the occasion of each WPA Ordinary General Assembly: the required number of the Secretaries of the WPA Executive Committee for a term of office of six years (according to Item 20); the WPA President Elect (VicePresident), who will serve the second three years of his or her term as President.
- (f) Elects on the occasion of each WPA Ordinary General Assembly WPA Zonal Representatives in accordance with Item 18 so that their continuity and change are guaranteed.
- (g) Confers WPA Honorary Memberships and WPA Honorary Fellowships, upon recommendation of the WPA Executive Committee.
- (h) Decides on the creation or dissolution of WPA Scientific Sections.
- (i) Decides on changes of WPA Statutes and WPA By-laws.
- (j) Decides on the dissolution of the WPA as an Association.

Section III - WPA Board

Item 15 – The WPA Board and its work:

The WPA Board comprises the WPA Zonal Representatives. The members of the WPA Executive Committee will be invited to attend the meetings of the Board.

The Board considers and advises the WPA Executive Committee and the WPA General Assembly on the work of the WPA, including in particular, (1) its efforts to strengthen collaboration among WPA Member Societies in the WPA Zones; (2) the admission or suspension of WPA Member Societies; (3) the creation of WPA Scientific Sections; (4) the Plan of Action of the WPA Executive Committee and

the plan of work produced by the President-Elect including its financial aspects; (5) the WPA budget and accounts; (6) the agenda of the WPA General Assemblies; and (7) the report of the WPA Nominations Committee concerning candidates for elective posts and recommendations concerning the voting procedures.

The Board is the representative of the General Assembly between meetings of the latter. In case the Board is not satisfied that the work of the Executive Committee is consistent with the formal decisions of the General Assembly it will inform the Executive Committee and may call an Extraordinary General Assembly.

During its Annual Meeting the Board will receive reports from the Executive Committee including the Executive Committee's plans for activities and their budgets for the following year.

The Board will be kept informed about official contacts between the WPA Executive Committee and the WPA Member Societies. They will in turn keep the WPA Executive Committee informed about their collaboration with WPA Member Societies, their needs, functioning and achievements.

The Board where appropriate will seek advice from the Council.

Item 16 – WPA Board meetings:

The WPA Board will meet annually at a WPA Congress of Psychiatry. WPA Board meetings or teleconferences may be held between these occasions.

The President will chair the Board and the Board will elect a Vice Chair every year by simple majority.

The WPA Secretary General will draw the agenda of the WPA Board meetings in consultation with its members and the WPA Executive Committee and include any or all of the items proposed by Board Members.

The quorum for the WPA Board meetings will be half plus one of its members.

Item 17 – The role of WPA Board Members:

The Board Members should play a key coordinating role within their WPA Zones. They shall encourage collaboration among WPA Member Societies in their Zone and stimulate their participation in all WPA activities. They shall support the dissemination of WPA related information and WPA educational materials. They shall assist the WPA Executive Committee in ascertaining the needs of WPA Member Societies and the ways in which these needs can be met.

Board members are encouraged to work together and explore collaborations that are institutionally functional.

Board members should report and advise the WPA Executive Committee on policies and activities in their WPA Zones.

Item 18 – Election of the Zonal Representatives and their eligibility for further Office:

Zonal Representatives are elected for an initial period of three years and they can stand competitively for reelection for a second and final period of three years.

The term of office of the newly elected WPA Zonal Representatives begins at the end of the WPA General Assembly that elected them, and finishes at the end of the subsequent WPA General Assembly. The WPA General Assembly elects them in accordance with the By-Laws.

Members of the Board are allowed to present their candidature for election for a position on the Executive Committee.

Candidates for Zonal Representatives are not eligible to apply for an elected Executive Committee post at the same time.

Section IV - WPA Executive Committee

Item 19 – WPA Executive Committee:

The decision making power of the WPA between General Assemblies are vested in the WPA Executive Committee. The WPA Executive Committee implements the decisions of the WPA General Assembly, administrates the WPA resources, ensures that WPA statutory functions are carried out by all officers and staff, produces, updates and supervises the application of the WPA Manual of Procedures, and prepares the materials for the WPA General Assemblies.

The WPA Executive Committee shall have eight members, including the WPA President, the WPA President-Elect (Vice President), the WPA Secretary General and five secretaries with defined functions (Finances, Scientific Sections, Scientific Meetings, Scientific Publications, and Education). The members of the WPA Executive Committee are elected for a period of six years (in a staggered manner).

Candidates nominated for an Executive Committee post are not eligible to apply for a Zonal Representative post at the same time

The quorum for the meetings of the WPA Executive Committee is five members, including the WPA President and/or the WPA President Elect (Vice President). The decisions of the WPA Executive Committee are based on a simple majority vote.

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that the quorum should be reduced to four members from 2023 as the size of the Executive will have been reduced to seven members with a further reduction to 6 members in 2026.)

In case of parity of votes, the WPA President or in case of his or her absence, the WPA President Elect (Vice-President) has the casting vote.

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that from October 2023 the posts of Secretary for Education and Secretary for Scientific Publications should be replaced by one combined post of WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications. The General Assembly also agreed that the post of Secretary for Scientific Meetings should cease from October 2026 when the President Elect would take responsibility for Scientific Meetings)

Item 20 – Election of members of the WPA Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the WPA General Assembly, in accordance with the Bylaws. Any elected member of the WPA Executive Committee may serve on the Executive Committee only once for no more than one six-year term. Any member, or former member, of the

WPA Executive Committee may be elected to the position of WPA President Elect (Vice-President). In no case may the immediate successor to the same position be elected from the same country.

Item 21 – Meetings of the WPA Executive Committee:

The meetings of the WPA Executive Committee will be held at least three times a year. The costs for the WPA Executive Committee meetings, including travel expenses, accommodation, per diem and meeting facilities will be covered by WPA central funds when not covered by other funding sources.

Item 22 – The WPA President:

The WPA President will have served as President-Elect (Vice-President) for three years before assuming office as President for a further three years.

The WPA President represents the WPA and speaks on its behalf. He/she chairs all meetings of the WPA General Assembly and the WPA Executive Committee, and should lead and when necessary support the members of the Executive Committee in the performance of their functions.

The WPA President will promote the activities of the different components of the WPA and their mutual collaboration to achieve the goals of the WPA.

The President convenes the WPA Executive Committee and decides its agenda in consultation with the WPA Executive Committee Members. The WPA President selects the chairpersons and members of the WPA Standing Committees after consultation with the Executive Committee and the selected Chairpersons of the relevant committees. The WPA President selects Special Advisors to the WPA President.

The WPA President chairs the WPA Nominations Committee and appoints its members, in consultation with the Executive Committee

The President presides over the WPA World Congress of Psychiatry.

The WPA President represents the WPA in all official matters.

The WPA President reports to the General Assembly and in the interim to the Executive Committee.

Item 23 – The WPA President-Elect (Vice President):

The WPA General Assembly elects the President Elect (VicePresident) for a period of six years, of which he or she serves as WPA President Elect (VicePresident) for three years and as WPA President for three years.

The WPA President-Elect (Vice President) shall chair the WPA Standing Committee on Planning.

In the absence of the WPA President, or if the WPA President is unable to carry out his or her functions, the WPA President-Elect (Vice President) shall preside over the meetings of the WPA Executive Committee, the WPA Nominations Committee, and the WPA General Assembly, and will be the point of contact for the WPA Board (if the President is unable to fulfil his or her duties).

The WPA President-Elect (Vice President) will represent the WPA President in his or her absence or upon his or her request in all official functions.

The WPA President-Elect (Vice President) reports to the Executive Committee.

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that from October 2026 the WPA President-Elect (Vice-President) would oversee the coordination of all official scientific meetings of the WPA. The WPA President-Elect (Vice-President) will also be responsible for the development of proposals to host WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry and will help in all aspects of the organization of other WPA scientific meetings work.)

Item 24 – The WPA Secretary General:

The WPA Secretary General is elected by the WPA General Assembly for a term of six years.

The WPA Secretary General has the governance responsibility to ensure that the Secretariat provides appropriate support for the work of the WPA.

The WPA Secretary General, in close collaboration with the WPA Board, ensures that the members of the WPA are kept well informed of the discussions and decisions of the WPA Executive Committee and of other WPA Committees and the WPA General Assembly, and also relates all concerns and opinions of the WPA members to these bodies. The WPA Secretary General coordinates the work of the WPA Board and serves as liaison between them and the WPA governing bodies.

The WPA Secretary General ensures that the Secretariat supports the Executive Committee in carrying out all the administrative tasks required for the work of the WPA, including the dissemination of reports, minutes and other materials to all WPA components.

The WPA Secretary General chairs the WPA Accreditation Committee.

The WPA Secretary General reports to the WPA Executive Committee.

Item 25 – The WPA Secretary for Finances:

The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Finances for a term of six years. The WPA Secretary for Finances is responsible for the implementation of policies concerning finances, investments, fund raising, auditing of the accounts, implementation of contracts that have financial implications, as well as for the prudent expenditure of the WPA funds. The WPA Secretary for Finances presents, after consultation with WPA Zone Representatives, the WPA yearly budget to the Executive Committee for approval and supervises its management. In case of discrepancies between the WPA Board and the WPA Executive Committee, a meeting of the WPA Board will take place if requested by the Board in order to reconsider the WPA budget.

The WPA Secretary for Finances will be a member of any WPA Committee relating to finance appointed by the President.

The WPA Secretary for Finances presents a report to each meeting of the Executive Committee, the Board and the WPA General Assembly, and presents an annual budget to the Executive Committee that has to be approved.

Item 26 – The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings:

The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings for a term of six years. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings oversees the coordination of all official scientific meetings of the WPA. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings is responsible for the development of proposals to hosts of WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry and helps in all aspects of the organization of other WPA scientific meetings work.

The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings reports to the Executive Committee.

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that the post of WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings will no longer exist after October 2026. The President-Elect will then assume responsibility for Scientific Meetings. The text for this item will be amended in 2026 to reflect this change)

Item 27 - The WPA Secretary for Education

The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Education for a term of six years. The WPA Secretary for Education coordinates the educational activities of the Association and ensures the distribution of educational programs of the WPA in cooperation with the WPA Zonal Representatives, and as necessary with the WPA Secretaries for Scientific Sections and for Scientific Meetings, the WPA Executive Committee and WPA Member Societies.

The WPA Secretary for Education reports to the WPA Executive Committee

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that the post of WPA Secretary for Education should no longer exist after October 2023 but should be replaced by the new WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications. This WPA Secretary will take on the combined current activities of the WPA Secretary for Education and the WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications. The text for this item will be amended in 2023 to reflect this)

Item 28 – The WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications:

The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications for a term of six years. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications is responsible for implementing the editorial policies of the WPA and maintains oversight of its publications. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications will be a member of any publication committee appointed by the WPA Executive Committee.

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that the post of WPA Secretary for Scientific Publications should no longer exist after October 2023 but should be replaced by the new WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications. The text for this item will be amended in 2023 to reflect this).

Item 29 – The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections:

The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections for a term of six years. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections is responsible for the implementation of WPA policies concerning the work of the WPA Scientific Sections, and for the coordination of their work.

The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections serves as adviser to the WPA Scientific Sections in the planning of Section Symposia or other activities.

The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections coordinates and facilitates WPA inter-sectional collaboration and also the collaboration of the WPA Scientific Sections with the WPA Member Societies.

The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections reports to the WPA Executive Committee.

Item 30 – WPA Institutional Programmes

WPA Institutional Programmes aim at achieving broad WPA purposes as stated in the WPA Statutes. Approval of the establishment or continuation of an Institutional Programme is granted by the WPA Executive Committee, and ratified by the WPA General Assembly. Proposals for the establishment of a WPA Institutional Programme should include a description of the rationale, the objectives, the steps of the implementation and the expected outcome of the programme, as well as the budget and the origin of sources of financial support. After a WPA Institutional Programme is established, an annual report on its progress should be submitted to the WPA Executive Committee for information, assessment and approval.

(Section V appears in the By-Laws only as there is no text in the Statutes)

Section VI - The WPA Standing Committees, WPA Task Forces and WPA Presidential Advisors

Item 31 – The WPA Standing Committees:

There will be the following Committees:

- Education
- Ethics and Review
- Finance and Fundraising
- Nominations
- Planning
- Scientific Publications
- Scientific Meetings
- Scientific Sections

(The General Assembly agreed in October 2020 that a new WPA Standing Committee called the WPA Standing Committee for Education and Publications should be established in 2023. This will combine the WPA Standing Committees for Education and the WPA Standing Committee for Scientific Publications. The text for this item will be amended in 2023 to reflect this decision)

The membership of all WPA Standing Committees should include a Zonal Representative and an Early Career psychiatrist.

Each Standing Committee will have five members including the Chairperson.

All WPA Committees and Task Forces report to the Executive Committee.

The responsibilities, membership and term of office are outlined in the By-Laws.

The Chairperson of the WPA Nominations Committee shall report to the WPA Executive Committee. In case of disagreement between the two committees, the President will seek the advice of the Board and Council.

Section VII - The WPA Council

Item 32 – Composition and tasks of the WPA Council:

The WPA Council is composed of the previous WPA Presidents for a period of six years. After six years of membership they are called Emeritus Council members. Members of the Council added before 2014 will remain its lifelong members.

The members of the Council will appoint among themselves a Chairperson for a period of three years. The WPA Council offers recommendations and advice to the WPA Executive Committee about any matters affecting the mission and strategy of WPA, and may propose items for the agenda of the WPA General Assembly.

The Council may be asked to provide its opinion on questions submitted to it by the President of the WPA, the Executive Committee or the Chairperson of the Board.

The WPA President will draw the agenda of the meetings of the WPA Council after consultation with its members and the WPA Executive Committee.

Item 33 – Meetings of the WPA Council:

The WPA Council shall meet with the WPA Executive Committee every three years at a WPA World Congress of Psychiatry prior to the meeting of the WPA General Assembly. WPA Council meetings or teleconferences may be held between these occasions.

Section VIII – Finances

Item 34 – Financial management:

The assets of the WPA will be utilized solely to meet its financial liabilities. The WPA Executive Committee will be responsible for the financial management of the WPA, and in accordance with the WPA plans and budget.

Item 35 – Income and Expenditures:

The income of WPA includes membership fees, donations and overhead charged on specific projects that WPA components are carrying out, technical support and service fees during WPA congresses, WPA scientific meetings, and royalties and revenues from WPA publications.

Expenditures include support for the establishment and functioning of a WPA Secretariat, for meetings of the WPA Executive Committee and other WPA committees, for the work of the WPA Board, for basic informational services for the WPA and for special projects carried out by various WPA components, when not covered by other sources.

Item 36 – Corporate Supporters:

Corporate Supporters are private or public institutions or individuals that help the WPA to achieve its goals by providing financial and other support and are informed, as appropriate, of its activities. The WPA recognises that there may be ethical considerations around accepting support from industry including the pharmaceutical industry.

Item 37 - Renumeration

Members of the WPA Executive Committee, the WPA Council, the WPA Board, and the WPA Committees and other WPA Officers will not be paid any salary or fee for their services to the WPA, nor will they be personally liable for debts incurred by the WPA.

Section IX - WPA Scientific Meetings

Item 38 – Scientific Meetings

In order to achieve its objectives including its branding and global coverage goals, the WPA has meetings of two main types: WPA Scientific Meetings organized by WPA and WPA Co-sponsored Meetings.

** (Sections X and XI appear in the By-Laws only as there is no text in the Statutes)*

Section XII - WPA Code of Conduct, WPA Oath of Office, and Misconduct in Office

Item 39

The World Psychiatric Association expects the highest ethical standards from those who serve on the Executive Committee, Board, Council, formally established WPA Committees and Task Forces, on an Appeals Panel, and as Special Advisors to the President WPA Code of Conduct. All these individuals are expected to comply with the WPA Code of Conduct and to sign the Oath of Office.

Section XIII- Statutes, By-laws and Manual of Procedures

Item 40 – Definitions of WPA Statutes, WPA By-Laws and WPA Manual of Procedures

The WPA Statutes is the highest normative instrument of WPA. It conceptually defines the nature, goals, organic and functional structures, and the basic functional areas of WPA.

The WPA By-Laws further describe, in some detail, the content of the further Statutes in order to establish major functional plans and activities for the WPA. The further Manual of Procedures contains specific operational guidelines aimed at promoting effectiveness and transparency in the works of WPA, fully respecting the provisions of the WPA Statutes and WPA By-laws.

Item 41 - Amendments of the WPA Statutes, WPA By-laws and WPA Manual of Procedures:

Recommendations for the change of the WPA Statutes and WPA By-laws can be made by the WPA Executive Committee, the WPA Board, the WPA Council and by WPA Member Societies. Unless there is an urgent need for change, any recommendations for changes in the WPA Statutes and WPA By-laws must be submitted to the WPA Executive Committee at least six months before the meeting of the WPA General Assembly and will be circulated to all WPA Member Societies at least three months before the WPA General Assembly. The Statutes of the WPA may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote taken in the WPA General Assembly, and the WPA By-laws by a simple majority of those present and voting.

If there is an urgent need to change the WPA Statutes and By-Laws between General Assemblies then recommendations must be submitted to the Executive Committee for discussion before they

are circulated to all WPA Member Societies. The Statutes of the WPA may be amended by a two-third majority of those who have voted and the WPA By-Laws by a simple majority of those voting.

Amendments must be reported to the next General Assembly

Amendments of the WPA Statutes and WPA By-Laws on elections shall not affect any ongoing electoral process.

Revisions of the WPA Manual of Procedures are approved by the WPA Executive Committee.

Section XIV - Dissolution of the WPA as an Association

Item 42 – Dissolution and net assets

The dissolution of the WPA will be decided by the WPA General Assembly at the request of the WPA Executive Committee, or at the request of more than one half of the WPA Member Societies. The WPA General Assembly will, with a two-thirds majority, decide on the dissolution of the WPA as an Association.

All net assets of the WPA remaining after its liquidation will be distributed in accordance with the decisions of the WPA General Assembly, in favour of a juridical body whose purposes assets of WPA shall be paid to its Member Societies or organs, nor shall be used to their profit in any manner.

A note for the Amendments to the By-Laws: after the discussion/revision and approval of the above amendments to the Statutes by the General Assembly, the necessary amendments to the By-Laws and Manual of Procedures will be made