

Council for Protestants in Guiding and Scouting (CPGS)

The Statutes

Adopted at the General Assembly in Copenhagen on October 13 and 14, 2006 and amended at the General Assembly in Yaoundé from June 22 to 26, 2022 in Cameroon.

I. Preamble

The Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting (CPGS) is an autonomous body of Scouts and Guides of the Protestant Christian faith, who belong to the National Organizations that are members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and/or the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Protestantism in Scouting" derives its basic spiritual understanding from the Protestant Christian churches, founded on the principles of the Protestant Reformation.

The first network of Protestants in Scouting and Guiding was created in 1965 in Europe under the name "Conference on Christianity in Guiding and Scouting" (CCGS).

The CPGS sees Scouting and Guiding as a contribution to the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people. We believe that equal attention should be given to each dimension of this development at all levels of Guiding and Scouting.

Our logo is formed from the outline of the tree symbols of the cross, shamrock and lily.

I. OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, LOCATION

Article 1: Objectives

1. To develop and promote the spiritual dimension of Guiding and Scouting with the enrichment of the Protestant Christian faith.
2. To promote constructive cooperation and a beneficial working environment between Scouting and Guiding and the official local Protestant churches, national Protestant denominations, national and international Protestant para-church organizations and the World Council of Churches.
3. Promote collaboration and partnership between the members of the CPGS, in particular by facilitating the exchange and sharing of experiences and good practices.
4. To take an active part in inter-religious dialogue within Scouting.
- 5, To support NSOs/NSAs that are Protestant members or have Protestants in their Faith and Belief program.

Article 2 : Headquarters

The headquarters of the CPGS is currently located in Germany and can be moved for a renewable period of 06 years to a CPGS member country.

II. MEMBERS

Article 3: Composition

The CPGS is composed of Member Organizations (Regular and Associate) and Observer Member Organizations.

Article 4: Types of Membership

The Member Organizations of the CPGS are presented in three ways:

- a. Regular Members: Open to Protestant Christian Scouting Associations/Organizations, members of WOSM and/or WAGGGS, as well as to Protestant National Scout Commissions or Councils, or any other form of organization composed of organizations or associations which are members of WOSM and/or WAGGGS.
- b. Associate Members: Open to associations and institutions that are members of WOSM and/or WAGGGS; institutions that are part of Protestant churches, or to individuals who are committed to the aims, principles and methods of Scouting as defined by the WOSM and/or WAGGGS Constitution.
- c. Observer Members: Open to observers from the World Scout Committee, the World Scout Bureau and its Regions, and WOSM Regional Committees, as well as observers from the World Scout Bureau and WAGGGS Regional Committees; Scout leaders from other denominations; observer institutions or individuals, especially from Protestant institutions; youth and/or Scout organizations; associations or institutions from countries not yet members of WOSM or WAGGGS

Article 5: Membership

The quality of Protestant Scouting organizations of the CPGS Member Organizations is defined in the following way:

Scout Associations/Organizations of Protestant persuasion or having Protestants in their midst must:

- a) Be recognized by WOSM as NSO/NSA;
- b) Having a Protestant Statutory Identity;
- c) Be recognized by their National Protestant Conference as Scout Associations of Protestant obedience or having Protestants in their midst;
- d) Maintain a living relationship with the Church;
- e) To live the Scouting pedagogy in conformity with the values of the Protestant faith;
- f) To promote a Protestant Scouting experience (program and training);

- g) To provide a Protestant pastoral program for youth using the values of the Scout Promise and Law.
- h) Protestant scout groups or groups with Protestant members must:
 - 1. Be instituted officially in a WOSM recognized Scout association;
 - 2. To be recognized by the national ecclesiastical hierarchy;
 - 3. Maintain a living relationship with the Church;
 - 4. To live the Scout pedagogy in conformity with the values of the Gospel;
 - 5. To promote a Protestant Scouting experience (program and training);
 - 6. Offer a Protestant pastoral ministry integrating the values of the Scout Promise and Law.

Article 6: Membership of the CPGS

- 1. The application for membership in the CPGS of an NSO/NSA organization shall be addressed to the President of the CPGS.
- 2. This application shall be signed or accompanied by a letter from the President of the NSA /OSN recognized by WOSM, and from the representative of the Protestant Conference concerned for purely Protestant ASNs.
- 3. The World Committee shall consider all applications for membership submitted by organizations. If it is satisfied that the requirements are met, it shall order the applicant NSO/NSA to the Member Organizations and propose to the World Assembly to approve the application for membership.
- 4. The admission of a member shall be decided by a two-thirds majority .
- 5. Regular, associate and observer membership is provisionally granted by the World Committee to eligible organizations and associations upon receipt of an application form. The final decision rests with the World Assembly.

Article 7: Loss of Membership

A member or observer organization may lose its membership in the following cases:

- a) Renunciation or loss of the condition of ASN of a Protestant Obedience or of an NSO that no longer has Protestants in its midst by statute;
- b) Relinquishing or losing the status of Protestant organization within a Scouting association;
- c) Serious infringement of the statutes, followed by a period of exclusion ;
- d) Waiving or losing WOSM membership.
- e) Non-payment of membership dues for more than six years.

Article 8: Suspension of Membership

- 1. The World Committee may provisionally suspend a member or observer - member who, in its opinion, no longer fulfills the required conditions.
- 2. The suspended member may appeal this decision within 30 days. The World

Committee has 60 days to maintain or withdraw the suspension. If the suspension is upheld, the suspended organization shall be invited to present its defense at the next meeting of the World Assembly.

3. The World Assembly will take its decision after hearing the report of the World Committee and the defense of the suspended member. If the World Assembly deems it necessary to exclude a member organization or observer member organization because it no longer fulfills the conditions of membership of the CPGS, or acts contrary to its mission, this decision shall be taken by a two-thirds majority.

4. Loss of membership

a. If a member of the CPGS loses the basis of its membership, the World Committee suspends the status of the member concerned pending a final decision by the World Assembly.

Article 9: Obligations of Regular and Associate Member Organizations

- a) To take part in the activities promoted by the CPGS at the global and regional levels;
- b) Inform the President of any modification of their statutes affecting the spiritual dimension of Scouting;
- c) Pay their annual dues.

Article 10: Rights of Regular and Associate Member Organizations

- 1. A Member Organization is in good standing when it is in compliance with its obligations, is not suspended and has paid its dues.
- 2. Member Organizations in good standing are entitled to:
 - a) Participate and vote in World and Regional Assembly meetings;
 - b) Benefiting from the services of the CPGS;
 - c) Take part in the activities of the CPGS;
 - d) To propose candidates to sit in the organs of the CPGS among their me.

Article 11: Obligations of Observer Member Organizations

- a) By invitation, take part in the activities of the CPGS;
- b) Inform the Chairman of any modification of their statutes affecting the spiritual dimension of Scouting;
- c) Pay their annual dues on time.

Article 12: Rights of Observer Member Organizations

- a) Participate in World and Regional Assembly meetings, but do not have voting rights;
- b) Benefit from the services of CPGS;

c) Take part, by invitation, in the activities of the CPGS.

III. CPGS STRUCTURES

Article 9: Bodies

The CPGS includes:

- A World Assembly;
- A Global Committee;
- A Global Bureau;
- Regions.

9.1. CPGS World Assembly :

1. The CPGS World Assembly is the supreme body of the Council. It is composed of the delegations of the duly recognized members of the CPGS;
2. Each member has one vote. Only members who have paid their CPGS dues can vote at the meeting;
3. Observers speak at the invitation of the Chair, but may not vote.

9.1.1. Function of the World Assembly

1. Define the general policies of the CPGS and ensure the implementation of its objectives
2. To approve and amend the Statutes of the CPGS;
3. Approve new memberships, associate memberships and observer status;
4. To help participants gain knowledge and inspiration in scouting and guiding;
5. To share methods, ideas and materials on the promotion of the Protestant Christian faith and the spiritual dimension in Guiding and Scouting;
6. To elect the Committee of the CPGS, composed of five persons, including the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and one member for a period of three years, renewable twice (02).
7. To approve the financial report and budget of the CPGS provided by the World Committee;
8. To approve the report of the World Committee ;
9. To discuss and approve the action plan proposed by the World Committee;
10. To approve the annual membership fee.

9.1.2. World Assembly Sessions

1. The World Assembly shall meet at least once every three years at a place and time to be determined at the previous assembly;
2. The President shall call the meeting;
3. The World Assembly forms its quorum by the presence of the majority of the members of the CPGS;

4. Resolutions are valid when passed by a majority of the members present at the conference. However, amendments to the CPGS bylaws require a quorum of 60% of the total membership and approval by 2/3 of the members present;
5. The members of the committee shall be elected by a simple majority;
6. The dissolution of CPGS requires a 2/3 vote of all CPGS members up to date with their dues;
7. Decisions taken must be in accordance with the WOSM and WAGGGS Constitutions;
8. An extraordinary world assembly can be convened by the Committee or be requested by 1/3 of the members of the CPGS up to date with their subscription.

9.2. The CPGS World Committee

1. The Committee is composed of five (05) persons elected by the assembly;
2. He is the executive body of the CPGS and is responsible to the assembly;
3. The committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Program Manager;
4. The members of the Committee are elected by the assembly for a period of three years. They may be re-elected a maximum of two (02) times;
5. When vacancies occur outside of a World Assembly, the Committee shall conduct a ballot-by-mail to fill the vacancy;
6. The Committee may co-opt up to five additional resource persons to assist in its work.

9.2.1. Functions of the CPGS Committee:

1. To promote the objectives of the World Assembly and implement the decisions, recommendations and action plan adopted by the World Assembly;
2. Prepare the agenda for the World Assembly;
4. Prepare a report on activities for approval by the World Assembly;
5. Be responsible for the financial report and budget and provide it to the World Assembly for approval;
6. The World Committee shall decide the time and place of an extraordinary meeting. Notices of such an assembly shall be sent by the president two months before the date of the assembly;
7. To propose the World Chaplain,
8. To ensure a high level of communication between CPGS and its member NSOs/Associations (the Committee and CPGS - NSOs/Associations).

9.2.2. Duties of the Chairman of the CPGS Committee

She/he makes sure,

1. that CPGS is represented in relevant meetings, events, conferences;
2. that the committee's obligations regarding the conference are met;
3. that contact with WOSM and WAGGGS be maintained;
4. that relationships with the WCC, other religious scout groups and WAGGGS and WOSM be promoted;
5. the proper conduct of the Committee meetings he/she chairs;

6. the proper execution of the missions entrusted to each member of the Committee;

9.2.3. Functions of the Vice-Chairman of the CPGS Committee

She/he assists and replaces the President,

1. in the representation in relevant meetings, events, conferences;
2. in the committee's obligations regarding the conference are fulfilled;
3. in maintaining contact with WOSM and WAGGGS;
4. in promoting relations with the Ecumenical Council, other religious scout groups and WAGGGS and WOSM;

She/he replaces the President in case of absence or impediment,

5. in the chairing and proper conduct of Committee meetings;
6. in the proper execution of the missions entrusted to each member of the Committee;

She/he supervises,

5. The missions entrusted to the Regional Presidents ;
6. New locations and integration of new members.

9.2.4. Functions of the Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be appointed by the World Committee from among the members elected by the World Board.

The duties of the Secretary General are :

- a) Provides the secretariat of the World Committee;
- b) To ensure communication with Member Organizations;
- c) Develop the necessary collaborations to promote the objectives of the CPGS;
- d) To carry out the duties assigned to it by the World Assembly and the World Committee;
- e) Prepare, in collaboration with the World Committee, the world events;
- f) Ensure continuity of the CPGS's duties during meetings and in between;
- g) Maintain archives;
- h) Ensure the establishment, proper functioning and coordination of regional structures.

9.2.5. Duties of the Treasurer

1. Prepare the CPGS budget;
2. To oversee the accounts of the Council and to control the receipts, revenues and expenditures ;
3. Prepare final accounts and financial reports.

9.2.6. Duties of the Program Manager

1. Responsible for the proper execution of the three-year CPGS program;
2. Prepares, proposes and coordinates an annual CPGS action plan;

3. Coordinates the implementation of the CPGS Youth Spiritual Program;
4. Provides advice to regional programs.

9.2.7. Meetings of the Committee

1. The committee meets at least once a year in person and may meet more often if the need is identified by the committee remotely;
2. The committee is in quorum when a majority of its members are present;
3. The decisions taken by the Committee are valid if they are adopted by a majority of the members present;
4. The Committee shall approve the expenses of the Committee and the signatures of two members of the Committee shall be sufficient to give payment instructions.

9.2.8. VOTE : VOTE

Each member of the World Committee has one vote. Resolutions of the World Committee shall be passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

9.3. The CPGS World Bureau:

The World Board is the operational body of the CPGS.
The CPGS World Bureau includes:

- a) The General Secretary who chairs it ;
- b) The World Monk;
- c) The World Treasurer.

9.3.1. Functions of the World Bureau

The duties of the World Bureau are:

- a) Implementing the World Committee guidelines;
- b) To plan and prepare, in collaboration with the World Committee, the meetings of the World Assembly;
- c) Manage employees;
- d) Plan and pilot global events;
- e) Assist in the establishment, operation and coordination of regional structures.

9.3.1. Functions of the Secretary General

The Secretary General coordinates the World Bureau and implements the decisions of the World Committee. He/she is the head of the World Bureau.

The duties of the Secretary General are :

- a) Monitor employees' work on a daily basis;

- b) To ensure communication with Member Organizations;
- c) Develop the necessary collaborations to promote the objectives of the CPGS;
- d) To carry out the duties assigned to it by the World Assembly and the World Committee;
- e) Prepare, in collaboration with the World Committee, the world events;
- f) Ensure continuity of the CPGS's duties during meetings and in between;
- g) Maintain archives;
- h) Ensure the establishment, proper functioning and coordination of regional structures.

9.3.2. Functions of the World Monk

The World Chaplain's mission is to ensure that the spiritual dimension is lived within CPGS at all levels.

9.3.3 : Appointment of the World Chaplain

The World Chaplain is nominated by the World President on the proposal of the World Committee after a call for candidacy from the NSOs/NSAs members of the CPGS.

The nominee with the approval of his hierarchy if he is a Pastor member of a national or international denomination or of his para-church organization if he is a Pastor of a local Protestant church is confirmed by the Protestant Ecumenical Council and recognized international Protestant organizations.

The World Chaplain serves for a period of three (03) years, renewable once.

The duties of the World Chaplain are:

- a) To contribute to the spiritual animation of the World Council and the My Dial Committee;
- b) Work with the World Committee to spiritually renew Member Organizations and inspire Scouts;
- c) To provide assistance and guidance within CPGS in the development of educational programs that integrate Protestant faith development;
- d) Encourage the exchange of best practices to this end.
- e) With the president, manage the relations between the protestant denominations and the CPGS;
- f) To appoint the Regional Chaplains for a period of three (03) years, in consultation with the Regional Committees and in consultation with the World Committee. The term of office of the Regional Chaplains shall be renewable once;
- g) Ensure strong relationships with regional chaplains and support them in their mission;
- h) To encourage interreligious dialogue within the World Scout Movement;
- i) Organize liturgical services during meetings and events worldwide;

- j) Communicate regularly with the CPGS World Chaplain to promote synergies;
- k) Work with the World Committee to achieve the goals of the CPGS.

9.4. CPGS Regions:

9.4.1. : Creation of Regions

To achieve the objectives of the CPGS, the World Assembly may establish Regions composed of Member Organizations.

- a) It would be desirable that the Regions of the CPGS correspond with the Regions of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM);
- b) As of the date of approval of these bylaws, the existing regions in CPGS are:
 - 1) the Africa region;
 - 2) the Europe-Mediterranean region;
 - 3) the Inter-American region.

The list of member organizations and observer member organizations in each region is attached.

- c) The Regions, must not in any way question the unity of the CPGS, either at the level of the World Scouting or of the Protestant Church;
- d) Rules of procedure for the operation and organization of the Regions are established by the Regional Council and approved by the World Committee. However, in the event of a conflict between these rules and the CPGS statutes, the latter shall prevail.

9.4.2 : Regional bodies

a) The regions are made up of :

- The Regional Assembly;
- The Regional Committee.

b) If necessary, in agreement with the World Committee, the Region may establish other bodies necessary for its operation.

Article 10: Finances

- a) Each member must pay an annual fee to the CPGS. The amounts will be recommended by the World Committee and approved by the World Assembly.
- b) The funds are held in the bank, as indicated in the schedule.
- c) The President and Treasurer together have the authority to spend money according to the objectives of the CPGS.
- d) In exceptional cases, the World Committee may grant a temporary reduction in dues to a Member Organization upon request.
- e) The World Committee is responsible for the management of the general budget. It reports to the World Assembly.
- f) In the interval of two World Assemblies :
 - A financial report is submitted annually to the World Committee by the Treasurer;
 - An annual budget, including financial transfers to each region after presentation of their annual action plan, is submitted to the World Committee by the Treasurer.

Article 11: Statutory Auditors

The World Assembly appoints one (01) Auditor in charge of the auditing of the accounts and the good governance of the resources in the interval of two (02), who must be from a country not represented in the World Committee.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 12: Languages

- a) The official languages of CPGS are English, French, German and Spanish. At the global level, the working languages are English and French.
- b) Each Region may use other languages as it deems appropriate.

In the event of any conflict concerning the interpretation of these bylaws, the English text shall prevail.

Article 12: Amendments to the Articles of Association

- a) Modifications of the Constitution may be proposed to the World Assembly by Member Organizations in good standing.
- b) Proposals for modifications can only be taken into consideration if they have been communicated to the Member Organizations at least two months before the World Council meeting. In addition they must be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the votes cast. Any modification of the Statutes must be approved by WOSM.

Article 13: Dissolution of the Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting

In the event of dissolution of the CPGS, its assets will be transferred to the World Scout Foundation, to be used for the benefit and support of the Protestant Christian Scouts and Guides.