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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Eighty-Eighth Session Geneva, October 15, 2014

REQUEST OF THE WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION (WFO)

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) requested, by letter of May 12, 2014, the granting of observer status to the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) and to the Technical Committee (TC) of UPOV. A copy of the letter is contained in Annex I.
2. The "Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies" (Granting Rules) (see http://www.upov.int/export/sites/upov/members/en/pdf/rules_observer_status.pdf) provide that the Consultative Committee is responsible for deciding which intergovernmental organizations should be granted observer status to the Council, the CAJ and the TC (see document UPOV/INF/19/1, paragraph 2(a)(ii), (c)(ii) and (d)(ii)).
3. The Granting Rules (see document UPOV/INF/19/1, paragraph 3(a) and (b)) provide that the following procedure should be followed by an organization wishing to obtain observer status:
 - "(a) In the first instance, the head of the organization should send a letter to the Secretary-General of UPOV requesting the granting of observer status to the Council and, if appropriate, to the CAJ, the TC and/or the TWPs.
 - "(b) The letter should contain a brief description of the organization's objectives, activities, structure and membership and: for intergovernmental organizations, a copy of the constituent treaty; and for international non-governmental organizations a copy of the statutes."
4. The "World Farmers' Organisation Statutes" (WFO Statutes) are reproduced in Annex II (in English).
5. The Granting Rules provide the following (see document UPOV/INF/19/1, paragraph 2):

"The granting of observer status to intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is reserved to those organizations with competence in areas of direct relevance in respect of matters governed by the UPOV Convention. The constituent treaty for intergovernmental organizations and the statutes for international non-governmental organizations will form the basis to determine that competence. [...]"
6. Article III "Objectives and activities" of the WFO Statutes provides the following:

"The association's mission is to bring together national agricultural producer organisations and national cooperative organisations of agricultural producers, to create policies and advocate on their behalf to improve the economic and social conditions of their producers, families and communities. In particular, the association pursues the following objectives:

- improve farmers' livelihoods and the viability of rural communities around the world;
- contribute to global food security by facilitating cooperation between the associated organisations;
- facilitate the organisation of agricultural producers and enable them to improve their position in the food supply chain;
- promote and protect other agriculture-related activities, such as forestry, aquaculture, environment, trade, research and education;
- encourage farmers' involvement in sustainable rural development, the environment and new emerging challenges, such as climate change and the renewal of generations;
- improve farmers' access to natural resources and address productivity improvements;

"In order to achieve these objectives, the organisation shall:

- represent its members in international non- or inter-governmental fora relevant to world farmers;
- promote and advocate on behalf of world farmers by developing strategic agricultural policies and other related policies;
- promote collaboration between its members and with international organisations;
- carry out and/or promote research, in-depth examination, studies and analyses as well as promote and/or organise conferences, meetings and seminars on topics and issues which are of interest to the association;
- establish and develop contacts, relationships and partnerships, both at national and international level, with governments, institutions, entities and, in general, with public and private bodies from Italy or abroad, which are relevant to the topics and issues that are of interest to the association;
- receive and use contributions, funds or other allocations of any type and nature, both private and public, subject to rules of procedure established by the Board;
- conclude agreements, protocols and conventions with other entities and third parties in general;
- possess, own, manage and rent buildings and other equipment, both movable and immovable;
- establish other organisations and/or participate as a member in other organisations, whose objectives are compatible with the association's own objectives, and importantly with its mission;
- carry out any other activity which is related and/or similar to those listed above, as well as carry out all acts and conclude all contractual operations relating to property, equipment, funds and industrial aspects, which are necessary and/or useful for achieving the association's aims and which are directly or indirectly linked to these, in accordance with the law;
- study, analyze and develop trade policy that enhances farm incomes and encourages efficient resource use."

7. The Consultative Committee is invited to consider the request of the World Farmers' Organisation for the granting of observer status to the Council, the CAJ and the TC.

[Annexes follow]



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Office of the Executive Director

Rome, 12 May 2014

Dear Mr. Gurry,

On behalf of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), I am hereby submitting WFO's application to formally acquire the status of observer within the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), and the Technical Committee (TC) of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

WFO is an international member-based Organization of farmers established in 2011 whose mandate is to bring together farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives from all over the world, representing the global farmer community: small, medium and large-scale farmers. WFO's mission is to represent and advocate on behalf of farmers in global policy forums and create the conditions for the adoption of policies aimed at improving the economic environment and livelihood of producers, their families, and rural communities.

WFO's objectives include supporting and advocating for farmers' causes, facilitating food security, and stimulating projects and activities to improve the economic conditions and livelihoods of producers, their families and rural communities. As of today, WFO can count on 64 members from 45 countries, and membership is still increasing very fast. These are mostly national farmers' organizations and cooperatives representing the interests of specific groups of farmers such as women and youth (see Article IV of the WFO Statutes). Overall, WFO represents over 1 billion farmers from all over the world.

WFO structure is composed of an International Secretariat based in Rome and a Board of Directors composed of seven members: the President, Mr. Peter Kendall, and six board members representing six regional constituencies (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania).

The WFO since its incipit, has considered UPOV an important partner in the development of the organization and its activities (see Article III of the WFO Statutes). WFO and UPOV have been working together in many activities, including the most recent workshop on *Farmers' Intellectual Capital*, co-organized in the occasion of WFO General Assembly in Buenos Aires.

Mr. Francis Gurry
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UPOV
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Switzerland

Mr. Francis Gurry, Secretary-General, UPOV

Mindful of the need to strengthen the collaboration between WFO and UPOV, I am delighted to submit this application and the WFO Statutes for your consideration.

Looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marco Marzano de Marinis', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Marco Marzano de Marinis
Executive Director



STATUTES
HEADING I
CONSTITUTION – DURATION – OBJECTIVES

Article I – Constitution and headquarters

An association has been established, with legal status, called the World Farmers' Organisation, abbreviation WFO, which is a representative organisation bringing together organisations of agricultural producers (and their cooperatives) from all agricultural sectors and from any country in the world.

The association is free, impartial and not-for-profit.

The association's headquarters are in Rome. Secondary offices, branches and delegations can be established by decision from the Board, either in Italy or abroad.

Article II – Duration

The duration of the association is unlimited, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

Should the association be dissolved for any reason, the provisions contained within article 19 of these statutes will apply.

Article III – Objectives and activities

The association's mission is to bring together national agricultural producer organisations and national cooperative organisations of agricultural producers, to create policies and advocate on their behalf to improve the economic and social conditions of their producers, families and communities.

In particular, the association pursues the following objectives:

- improve farmers' livelihoods and the viability of rural communities around the world;
- contribute to global food security by facilitating cooperation between the associated organisations;
- facilitate the organisation of agricultural producers and enable them to improve their position in the food supply chain;
- promote and protect other agriculture-related activities, such as forestry, aquaculture, environment, trade, research and education;
- encourage farmers' involvement in sustainable rural development, the environment and new emerging challenges, such as climate change and the renewal of generations;
- improve farmers' access to natural resources and address productivity improvements;
- In order to achieve these objectives, the organisation shall:
- represent its members in international non- or inter-governmental fora relevant to world farmers;

- promote and advocate on behalf of world farmers by developing strategic agricultural policies and other related policies;
- promote collaboration between its members and with international organisations;
- carry out and/or promote research, in-depth examination, studies and analyses as well as promote and/or organise conferences, meetings and seminars on topics and issues which are of interest to the association;
- establish and develop contacts, relationships and partnerships, both at national and international level, with governments, institutions, entities and, in general, with public and private bodies from Italy or abroad, which are relevant to the topics and issues that are of interest to the association;
- receive and use contributions, funds or other allocations of any type and nature, both private and public, subject to rules of procedure established by the Board;
- conclude agreements, protocols and conventions with other entities and third parties in general;
- possess, own, manage and rent buildings and other equipment, both movable and immovable;
- establish other organisations and/or participate as a member in other organisations, whose objectives are compatible with the association's own objectives, and importantly with its mission;
- carry out any other activity which is related and/or similar to those listed above, as well as carry out all acts and conclude all contractual operations relating to property, equipment, funds and industrial aspects, which are necessary and/or useful for achieving the association's aims and which are directly or indirectly linked to these, in accordance with the law;
- study, analyze and develop trade policy that enhances farm incomes and encourages efficient resource use.

HEADING II

ASSOCIATES AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article IV – Members, associated members and affiliated members

The organisations which participated in the creation of the association by signing the constitutive act are members of the WFO. Organisations or unions of organisations, which are independent, national, general in scope and are recognised by the WFO as representing agricultural producers and/or agricultural cooperatives in a specific country, are eligible for full membership. It is possible for more than one organisation from one single country to become a member.

Voting shall be on the basis of one vote per member.

Any new national organisation of farmers and/or agricultural cooperatives, having existed for less than ten years, shall be eligible for associated membership for a maximum period of five years. After having been associated member, an organisation can apply for full membership.

Upon admission, every member is assigned to one of the following constituencies according to the location of their headquarters: *Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe and Oceania*, as described in the Rules of Procedure of General Assembly.

Each constituency shall decide on nominating a common representative to the Board.

Transnational organisations from one or more country representing farmers' organisations and/or agricultural cooperatives, global organisations representing one agricultural sector, national commodity groups, organisations representing women farmers or young farmers are eligible for affiliated membership.

Associated and affiliated members may not present candidates for positions within the association and do not dispose of voting rights in the General Assembly.

Article V – Admission procedure

Application for membership is by written request from the applicant to the Board through the association's headquarters.

The request must include:

- a) indication of the name and the headquarters;
- b) the name of the legal representative;
- c) a declaration accepting the statutory norms of the association (agreement to comply with Statutes).

The following documents must be attached to the request:

- 1) a complying copy of the statutes;
- 2) a copy of the minutes from the meeting where the competent body approved the requested membership of the WFO.

Where necessary, the Board has the power to ask the applicant for further information and documents to demonstrate the legitimacy of the request and/or the possession of proof that the requirements can be met. Approval of the request for membership shall be unanimous from those present at the Board meeting, after checking the general suitability of the applicant as well as ensuring that there are no reasons to prevent membership. In case of non-unanimity of the Board, the General Assembly shall decide on the request.

The admission of associated and affiliated members uses the same procedure provided for member admission in this article.

The admission of members, associated members and affiliated members implies full acceptance of the spirit and the letter of the association's statutory norms as well as any regulations it may have. This includes the obligation to abide by all the association's rules and conditions and to observe the decisions made by the association's bodies.

Article VI – Membership fees

Membership fees for any financial year shall be paid in advance in one instalment, not later than by March 1st of every year, members are obliged to pay the membership fee. The amount will be determined by the General Assembly by October of the previous year.

By March 1st of every year, associated members and affiliated members are obliged to pay an association fee or an affiliation fee respectively. The amount will be determined by the General Assembly by October of the previous year and will be less than the amount required for the membership fee.

When determining the amount to be paid, in accordance with the provisions included in the prospective rules of procedure referred to in article 10.d of these statutes, the General Assembly may provide special and differential treatment for full members and associated members from developing countries, in line with the development status according to the World Bank.

New members, associated members and affiliated members are obliged to pay their first fee no more than 20 days after being informed that their application for membership has been approved by the Board.

The sums of money paid as membership, association or affiliation fees are not reimbursable.

Article VII – Termination of member, associated member or affiliated member status

A member will cease to be a part of the association for the following reasons:

1. legal dissolution and being put into liquidation;
2. withdrawal by means of written communication with the Board. The withdrawal takes legal effect from the end of the year in which notice of the withdrawal is received on the condition that it is formalised at least three months prior to the end of the year.
3. end of membership, established by a General Assembly decision, due to the member no longer fulfilling the requirements for admission to the WFO;
4. expulsion. This may be approved by the General Assembly, for the following reasons:
 - a) violation of the statutory norms or decisions of the association's bodies;
 - b) failure to pay membership fees for two consecutive financial years;

- c) acting in a manner detrimental to the moral and material interests of the association;
- d) acting in a manner which runs counter to the objectives of the association or which results in it no longer being suitable for the member to remain in the association.

Members who have withdrawn or been excluded from the association, those who have had their membership ended or have ceased to be a member, may not request the repayment of their membership fees and may not lay any claim to the association's assets.

The provisions included in this article are also valid for the termination of associated and affiliated member status.

HEADING III

THE ASSOCIATION'S BODIES

Article VIII – Bodies

The association's bodies are:

- The General Assembly;
- The Board;
- The President;
- The Board of Auditors.

Article IX - The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the WFO and makes decisions on all the association's agricultural policy lines, questions and orientations.

The General Assembly is composed of all members who are up-to-date with their fees, represented by their legal representatives who have been designated by the aforementioned members in accordance with their own statutes.

Each full member has the right to one vote within the General Assembly.

The assembly, whether it be an ordinary or an extraordinary meeting, is convened by the President or, should he/she be absent or unable to attend, by the Vice-President by inviting all members at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. In extraordinary or emergency situations, this may be reduced to 10 days.

The invitation to the meeting, containing the agenda for the General Assembly, should be sent to members by registered letter, fax, email or any other method which can provide confirmation of receipt.

The General Assembly shall meet in a members' country, subject to the location being specifically indicated within the invitation to the meeting.

The General Assembly shall be convened at least once a year to approve the budget and confirm the location of the next meeting, both upon recommendation of the Board, as well as at any time when it is deemed necessary or if a request is put forward by at least one tenth of the members.

Decisions made at the General Assembly shall be passed by a majority of votes on the condition that at least half of the members are present at the meeting. When no decision is taken in first instance, the second vote on this decision is valid regardless of the number of members present.

For decisions on the budget and other financial matters, the positive vote of at least three-quarters of the members, present in person or by proxy, is required.

However, in order to make decisions on possible amendments to the statutes, the presence of two-thirds of the members and a positive vote from the majority of those members is required.

A positive vote from at least three-quarters of the members is required for decisions, relating to dissolution of the organisation, the nomination of liquidators and the devolution of assets.

Members may be represented by other members in the General Assembly using a written proxy.

The General Assembly may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of the equal treatment of members are respected and that all members are guaranteed the opportunity to speak.

In such a situation, the President shall verify the identity and legitimacy of the participants, adjust the functioning of the meeting and note and announce the results of the voting.

The decisions made by the General Assembly in accordance with these statutes are binding for all members; both those who voted in favour and those who voted against.

Article X – Duties of the General Assembly

Ordinary Assembly:

- a) establishes general orientations and guidelines for the association's activity;
- b) creates and approves the association's strategic plan;
- c) approves the annual budgets prepared by the Board;
- d) approves the organisation's rules of procedure;
- e) determines the level of membership, association and affiliation fees;
- f) determines the level of possible entry fees requested from **members, associated members and affiliated members upon admission**;
- g) makes decisions relating to the termination and the cessation of the membership of **members, associated members and affiliated members**;
- h) makes decisions relating to the election of the Board, the President, and to the revocation of these elections. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly will describe the exact procedure;
- i) makes decisions relating to the appointment of members of the Board of Auditors;
- j) may set up specific committees for women farmers and young farmers to tackle those topics which are of particular interest to them within the framework of the objectives of the WFO;
- k) where judged appropriate, may set up additional regional committees and/or committees relating to specific topics which are of interest to the agricultural sector;
- l) may, upon request from the constituencies as mentioned in article 4, make decisions on particular intervention programmes or initiatives relating to their specific issues;
- m) makes decisions on other proposals which the Board submits for its consideration.

Extraordinary Assembly:

- a) make amendments relating to the statutes;
- b) make decisions relating to the dissolution and the liquidation of the association, as well as to the disbursement of assets.

Article XI – The Board

The Board is appointed by the General Assembly and is made up of one President and six nominated members each representing one of the constituencies mentioned in article 4 of these statutes and proposed by their own constituencies.

The President and the other Board members are chosen from among the legal representatives of the member organisations or from among the individuals designated by them.

The Board has a two-year term and its members' mandates may only be renewed once.

The election of three positions on the Board which will have been selected pursuant to the mechanism provided for under Rule 8 of the WFO Rules of Procedure, will take place, together with that of the President, at the 2014 General Assembly. The Board Members and the President thus elected will remain in office for the two year term provided for under the 3rd paragraph of this Article.

The election of three remaining positions on the Board will take place at the 2015 General Assembly. The Board Members thus elected will also remain in office for the two year term provided for under the 3rd paragraph of this Article.

Subsequently the positions on the Board representing the constituencies provided for under article IV, 4th paragraph of these Statutes, whose election for the years 2014 and 2015 are regulated by the mechanism provided for under the 4th and 5th paragraphs of this Article, will respectively become vacant at the 2016

and 2017 General Assemblies, where elections shall take place. Thereafter, elections of the Board Members shall take place on a staggered basis, with three Members being elected in one year and three Members in the other year. All the Board Members shall remain in office for the two year term set forth in 3rd paragraph of this Article.

If during any given year one or more positions on the Board become vacant, the remaining members may co-opt a new Board member to fill the position provided that he/she is from the same constituency as the previous Board member. The co-opted member of the Board then remains in the position until the next General Assembly meeting where the nomination must either be ratified or another nomination must be made by the new Board member's constituency. The new Board member, thus ratified or nominated by the General Assembly, then remains in the position until the end of the mandate of the Board member they replaced.

A Board meeting is convened by the President or, should he/she be absent or unable to attend, by the Vice-President by inviting all Board members at least 10 days before the date of the Board meeting. In extraordinary or emergency situations, this may be reduced to 5 days.

The invitation to the meeting, containing the agenda for the Board meeting, should be sent to the Board members by any method which can provide confirmation of receipt.

The Board shall normally meet at the WFO headquarters. However, it may also meet in other locations inside or outside Italy, subject to this being specifically indicated in the invitation to the meeting.

The Board shall meet at least four times a year as well as whenever there is a request for a meeting received from at least three of its members.

Board meetings are considered to be valid if the majority of Board members are present. Decisions must be approved by the majority of the Board members present at the meeting. If the number of votes for and against is tied, the President has the deciding vote.

Board meetings may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of equal treatment are respected.

In such a situation, the President shall verify the identity and legitimacy of the participants, adjust the functioning of the meeting and note and announce the results of the voting.

Members of the Board cannot be represented by a proxy.

Article XII – Duties of the Board

The Board shall:

- a) formulate proposals to submit to the General Assembly and execute the decisions it adopts;
- b) make decisions relating to the admission of **members, associated members and affiliated members, referred to in article V**;
- c) prepare the annual final and provisional budgets to submit to the approval of the General Assembly;
- d) make decisions relating to accepting contributions, donations or bequests as well as acquisitions and alienations of moveable or immovable property, with approval of Board of Auditors.
- e) assure the most secure and convenient use of WFO assets;
- f) make decisions relating to possible cooperation agreements between the WFO and other bodies; national and international, public and private;
- g) generally take any step necessary for the smooth functioning of the WFO which the General Assembly is not required to take either by law or according to the statutes;
- h) appoint and/or remove the Executive Director, through a proposal of any member of the Board;
- i) examine proposals for the location of the next General Assembly and present recommendations to the General Assembly, including a recommendation for an alternative.

The Board also holds all ordinary and extraordinary administrative powers which are not expressly reserved for or attributed to the General Assembly.

Upon receipt of express permission from the Board, any Board member may represent the WFO in an international context in line with the objectives (indicated in article 3 of these statutes), the strategic plan and the orientations and positions approved by the General Assembly.

The Board is responsible for nominating the Vice-President and Treasurer from among its members.

The Board may delegate its tasks to one or more Board member, thereby granting them the powers of management and representation needed to carry out single acts or series of acts.

The Board may also grant special powers to external subjects who, within that specific task, may represent the WFO in dealings with third parties.

Article XIII – The President

The President is elected by the General Assembly and is a member of the Board of which he/she is also President.

The President may not come from the same constituency as his/her predecessor. The President's mandate may only be renewed once.

The President is the legal representative of the WFO in dealings with third parties and in court. His/her signature is the signature of the organisation. The President has the power to guide the association's policy lines and to monitor the correct application of the decisions made by the bodies; namely the Board and the General Assembly.

Should the President be temporarily absent or unable to carry out his/her duties, the President's tasks are taken on by the Vice-President.

The President convenes and presides over General Assembly and Board meetings.

Article XIV – The Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors is comprised of three members who are appointed by the General Assembly, one of which shall be an independent professional auditor.

The Auditors have a two-year term, unless they are removed from their positions by the General Assembly due to a serious issue. Their mandates are renewable.

The Board of Auditors carries out accounting and administrative supervision relating to the management of the WFO, assures that accounting entries are correct, checks the accounts and presents its own report to the General Assembly on the final and provisional budgets.

The Auditors can be invited to attend the meetings of both the General Assembly and the Board.

The Board of Auditors meetings may also take place with participants in different locations, near or far, with audio or video connections to the meeting, provided that simultaneous voting protocol and the principle of the equal treatment of members are respected.

Article XV - The Executive Director

The Board shall appoint the Executive Director. He/she may be from outside the WFO membership.

The Executive Director remains in the position for a period of time determined upon his/her appointment or until he/she is removed from the position.

The Executive Director:

- is responsible for the staff
- works together with the President in the execution of his tasks, including when these tasks relate to the application of decisions made by the statutory bodies
- is responsible for organisational activity, for the correct functioning of the WFO offices and for keeping documents for the association
- is responsible for coordination with the President and the association's bodies in relation to the fulfilment of their mandates
- attends the meetings of the association's bodies, without the right to vote, assuming the function of a Secretary in the meetings
- is responsible for issues delegated to him/her by the Board

The Board may at any time remove the Executive Director from the position.

Article XVI - Treasurer

The Board shall elect from its members a Treasurer by majority.

The Treasurer shall occupy this position for his/her entire term as a member of the Board, unless he/she stands down prematurely or his/her mandate is terminated or revoked by the Board by majority, at any given time. The Treasurer shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) give his/her opinion as to whether the ordinary or extraordinary expenditure as decided by the Board is compatible with the obligation of balancing the budget;
- b) maintain contact with the members, associated members and affiliated members on issues relating to financing the WFO, including membership fees;
- c) report to the General Assembly should the decisions taken by the Board on the financial affairs of the WFO oppose his/her opinion;
- d) approach the members, associated members and affiliated members for the membership fees due;
- e) oversee the general financial situation of the WFO and provide the General Assembly with opinions on problems relating to it, should the General Assembly so ask.

HEADING IV

ASSETS – THE ASSOCIATION'S RECEIPTS

Article XVII – Assets

The assets of the WFO comprise the following:

- a) funds provided by the members as part of the constitutive act of the WFO;
- b) movable and immovable property having come under the ownership of the WFO upon purchase, bequest, donation, attribution or by any other means;
- c) funds issued as reserves or provisions;
- d) any contributions from physical persons, public or private bodies;
- e) any membership fees from members, associated members and affiliated members;
- f) financial contributions of any kind destined to increase the assets, upon the decision of the Board.

The assets of the WFO are also made up of any other receipts, movable or immovable property aimed at increasing the capital and they can be enhanced or increased through endowments, donations, bequests, gifts, contributions or testamentary dispositions according to the procedures and conditions laid down in the appropriate legislation.

The basic annual fees payable by the members, associated members and affiliated members shall be determined in accordance with the general operational needs of the WFO in view of achieving a balanced budget. The operational costs relating to the core functions of WFO should be financed by membership fees.

Article XVIII – Financial year

The financial year for the WFO begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December each year.

Within 120 days after the close of the financial year, the General Assembly shall approve the accounts for the previous year. Should there be a legitimate reason for doing so, approval of the accounts shall be possible up until 180 days after the close of the financial year.

By 31st December each year, the General Assembly shall approve the provisional budget for the following financial year.

The accounts shall be accompanied by the report of the Board of Auditors.

HEADING V

DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION - FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article XIX – Dissolution and liquidation

The WFO shall be dissolved in accordance with all cases provided for by the Italian Civil Code and when decided by the General Assembly if at least three quarters of the members vote in favour.

The General Assembly shall appoint the liquidators according to the same majority as for the dissolution. Following liquidation, the residual assets shall be transferred in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly which approved the dissolution. They shall be transferred to any organisation having objectives similar, shared or complementary to those of the WFO or offered for public use unless other purposes are stipulated by legislation.

Article XX – Working languages

The working languages of the WFO are Italian, English, French and Spanish. The official language for all WFO legal acts, official reports and minutes, shall be Italian.

Article XXI - Referral

For all matters which are not expressly provided for or governed by the present statutes, the provisions of the Italian Civil Code and the appropriate Italian legislation in force shall apply.

Article XXII – Transitional provision

By way of derogation from Article XI of the present statutes, the initial Board of the WFO shall comprise four members (including President) appointed as part of the constitutive act and shall remain in office for a period of two months. The members do not necessarily have to be chosen from the legal representatives or from those individuals designated by the member organisations.

Within two months of the WFO being created, the General Assembly shall meet in order to appoint the Board of Auditors and the new Board (including the new President) in line with the provisions laid down by the present statutes. The initial Board, in compliance with these statutes, will establish rules of procedure specifically intended for the first General Assembly, in view of membership fees in relation to voting rights and the right to propose candidates for elected positions.