

**WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION STATUTES  
AND BY-LAWS**  
reviewed and approved by the General  
Assembly in Vienna on September 30 2023

STATUTES	BY-LAWS
	<b>Part A – RULES IMPLEMENTING THE ARTICLES OF THE STATUTES</b>
<p><b>Section I –DEFINITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Article 1 – Name and incorporation</b></p> <p>Under the name of</p> <p>WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (hereafter “WPA”)</p> <p>is incorporated a not-for-profit civil association under the laws of Switzerland It is registered with the competent Corporate Register of its Seat.</p> <p><b>Article 2 – Seat</b></p> <p>The Seat of the WPA is on the territory of the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, at the address decided by its Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>Section I - DEFINITIONS</b></p>
<p><b>Article 3 - Purposes:</b></p> <p>The purposes of the WPA are to:</p> <p>(1) Increase knowledge and skills necessary for working in the field of mental health and in the care for people with mental disorders/mental illness, substance use disorders and related disability;</p> <p>(2) Promote the application of public health principles in the fields of psychiatry and mental health;</p> <p>(3) Support action to prevent mental disorders;</p> <p>(4) Support action to promote mental health;</p> <p>(5) Support action to diagnose and manage comorbidity between physical and mental illnesses/mental disorders;</p>	

- (6) 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;
- (7) Advocate and apply ethical principles and the observance of human rights in research and teaching;
- (8) Ensure equity as well as non-discrimination in the access to and the quality of care and in other areas of life of people with mental illnesses/mental disorders;
- (9) Promote the development and observance of the highest quality standards in psychiatric care, teaching and research;
- (10) Protect the professional rights of psychiatrists.

**Article 4 – Activities**

The WPA will achieve its purposes by:

- (1) Advancing cooperation among WPA Member Societies and components;
- (2) Supporting the principle of gender equality within the psychiatric profession and the patient population
- (3) Achieving appropriate gender and geographical balance in its activities proportionate to the profession
- (4) Facilitating international exchanges of information within the psychiatric and mental health fields;
- (5) Cooperating with national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations active in fields relevant to WPA purposes;
- (6) Organizing Congresses of Psychiatry and other meetings on matters relevant to WPA purposes;
- (7) Developing and disseminating statements relevant to psychiatry and mental health publications;
- (8) 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;
- (9) Initiating and supporting the development of continuing medical education

**Ad Article 4 - Activities**

The WPA may produce the following documents:

- Position statements: The President and the Executive Committee may ask a WPA component to develop Position statements that reflect the WPA’s positions on various issues. The Executive Committee will approve Position Statements.
- Discussion documents: the President and the Executive Committee may ask a WPA component to develop Discussion documents on a topic related to areas of Psychiatry. This is to generate more discussion and to keep the topic covered for general consensus. The Executive Committee will approve Discussion documents.
- Guidelines: The President and the Executive Committee may ask a component to develop Guidelines that could be used by WPA components. The Executive Committee will approve Guidelines

The Manual of Procedures provides further details on these documents.

<p>systems in collaboration with WPA Member Societies and other pertinent institutions;</p> <p>(10) Promoting and conducting collaborative research related to mental health and mental illnesses;</p> <p>(11) Establishing task forces to deal with specific psychiatric and mental health issues;</p> <p>(12) Raising funds and accepting donations;</p> <p>(13) Combating stigma and its consequences;</p> <p>(14) Editing and publishing or encourage the publication of editorial material supporting its purposes, by the way of books, newspapers, internet sites etc.;</p> <p>(15) Conducting any other activities harmonious with achieving the purposes of the WPA.</p>	
<p><b>Article 5 -Languages:</b></p> <p>English is the official language of the WPA and only the English text of these Statutes is binding.</p> <p>The use of other language may be requested provided the request is made in adequate time and related costs will be paid by the person or entity that has made the request.</p>	<p><b>Ad article 5 – Languages</b></p> <p>The use of other languages than English requires approval from the WPA Secretariat in consultation with the WPA Officers as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Article 6 – WPA Logo:</b></p> <p>The logo of the WPA consists of a representation of the Greek letter <math>\Psi</math> supporting the Earth globe. It may be supplemented by the name of WPA in English or any other relevant languages.</p>	<p><b>Ad Article 6 – WPA Logo</b></p> <p>The logo and name of the WPA are copyrighted. Their use requires the written permission of the Secretary General who may delegate the granting of such permission to the Secretariat. The advice of the Executive Committee will be sought as required. The Executive Committee will, depending on the nature of the request, decide whether to request payment of a royalty or grant the permission without compensation.</p> <p><u>Endorsement</u></p> <p>The WPA will endorse a document under the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The members of the Executive Committee or Board, Chairs of Sections and other groups, have been actively involved in the drafting of the</li> </ol>

	<p>document and approval for participation has been received prior to the work starting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The document is relevant to psychiatry and mental health</li> <li>3. The document has been endorsed by partner organizations (where relevant)</li> <li>4. A copy has been sent to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of WPA, to seek authorization to use the logo.</li> </ol> <p>As part of the drafting process it is expected that, if relevant, specialty advice will be sought from the Sections. The Secretary-General will also be consulted to ensure that the document does not contradict WPA mental health information and policy.</p> <p>The WPA logo can then appear on these documents</p> <p><u>Support</u></p> <p>The WPA may support an external document even if the Officers have not been involved or consulted prior to the drafting of the document when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The document is relevant to the work of the WPA</li> <li>2. The document has been endorsed by other partner organizations (where relevant)</li> </ol> <p>The WPA logo will normally not appear on these documents.</p>
<p><b>Section II - WPA MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>Article 7 - WPA Member Societies:</b></p> <p>Psychiatric Societies whose goals and ethical standards are consonant with the current WPA ethical standards as specified in the By-Laws are eligible for full membership in the WPA if they submit to its Executive Committee an official application in accordance with the WPA By-laws.</p> <p>A Psychiatric Society is a medical society of qualified psychiatrists (natural human beings hereafter Psychiatrists) concerned with the</p>	<p><b>Section II – WPA MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>Ad Article 7 - WPA Member Societies:</b></p> <p>Requests for membership must be sent to the Secretary General. The application for admission must be accompanied by a copy of the resolution passed by the Psychiatric Society requesting Membership and a copy of its Statutes translated into English.</p> <p>The request should be accompanied by an indication of the society to the ethical principles as laid down in the current WPA ethical standards as specified in the By-laws, and by a written</p>

<p>prevention and treatment of mental disorders and with the promotion of mental health.</p> <p>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 as a juridical body. If there are reasons why it is not legally recognized then the application may still be considered.</p> <p>Another Psychiatric 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 the Psychiatrists of the two societies.</p> <p>Regional Psychiatric Societies with a majority of Psychiatrists 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.</p> <p>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 only by the number of Psychiatrists.</p> <p>The decision to admit a Psychiatric Society in the WPA is made by the General Assembly by a simple absolute majority vote on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. WPA reserves the right not to admit a Psychiatric Society as a WPA Member Society.</p> <p>Termination of membership in the WPA can be effected by resignation immediate or for a term. Exclusion or suspension for a term or sine die can be effected by a decision of the General Assembly, with a two-thirds absolute majority vote.</p> <p>Non-payment of dues for three consecutive years will lead to the submission by the</p>	<p>description of the scientific and professional activities the society is undertaking.</p> <p>On the basis of this information, the Executive Committee will seek the written opinion of all Member Societies, of the Council and of the Representative of the Zone in which the applicant society is located. If there are no objections, the Executive Committee may proceed to grant the society the status of Applicant within the WPA. If there are objections, the Executive Committee will seek further information and clarification before submitting the proposal to the General Assembly.</p> <p>Membership applications must reach the Secretary General at least six months prior to the next General Assembly in order to be considered for admission at that Assembly.</p> <p>Member Societies are obliged to send to the WPA Secretariat updated information on their activities and legal status, as requested by the Secretary General.</p> <p>Member Societies which have not paid their dues before the General Assembly will be warned that the non-payment of dues for three consecutive years will lead to the submission of a proposal to the General Assembly for their exclusion.</p>
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<p>Executive Committee of a proposal to the General Assembly for exclusion.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances and for legitimate grounds, as the failure to cooperate or respond to a request from the Ethics and Review Committee of the WPA in investigating ethical complaints, the Executive Committee may suspend a Member Society for a term or sine die, until the next General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the WPA By-laws.</p>	
<p><b>Section III - WPA AFFILIATES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>Article 8 – WPA Affiliated Associations:</b></p> <p>Associations and international federations of societies with goals that are consonant with those of the WPA and that are not eligible as Member Societies may be accepted as WPA Affiliated Associations.</p> <p>Representatives of Affiliated Associations can attend WPA formal meetings, but do not have the right to vote.</p> <p>Decisions about the admission, suspension or termination of their status as Affiliated Association can be made by the WPA General Assembly with a simple majority vote. The Executive Committee may suspend the affiliation of an Association if it considers that its continuing affiliation may be contrary to the achievement of the WPA’s purposes.</p>	<p><b>Section III – WPA AFFILIATES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>Ad Article 8 - WPA Affiliated Associations</b></p> <p>Requests for affiliation must be sent to the Secretary General. The application for affiliation must be accompanied by a copy of the resolution passed by the Association requesting Affiliation and a copy of its Statutes translated into English.</p> <p>The request should be accompanied by an indication of formal adherence of the Association to the ethical principles as laid down in the current WPA ethical standards as specified in the By-laws and by a written description of the scientific and professional activities the association is undertaking.</p> <p>On the basis of this information, the Executive Committee will seek the written opinion of all Member Societies, the Council and of the Representatives of the Zone in which the applicant association is located.</p> <p>If there are objections, the Executive Committee will seek further information and clarification before submitting the proposal to the General Assembly</p> <p>Affiliation Applications must reach the Secretary-General at least six months prior to the next General Assembly in order to be considered for admission at that Assembly</p>

	<p>WPA Affiliated Associations are obliged to send to the WPA Secretariat updated information on their activities and legal status, as requested by the Secretary-General.</p>
<p><b>Article 9 – WPA Special Individual Members, WPA Individual Members and WPA Fellows</b></p> <p>Affiliation of WPA Special Individual Members and WPA Individual Members or WPA Fellows according to the definitions hereafter are decided by the Executive Committee. Psychiatrists may not apply to become a Special Individual or Individual Member as long as they are part of a Member Society.</p> <p>Qualified psychiatrists may apply for WPA Special Individual Membership to the WPA if they reside in a country without a Member Society. This provision shall not affect the status Special Individual Members already admitted in the past.</p> <p>Other health professionals and scientists who are not qualified Psychiatrists may apply to become WPA Individual Members.</p> <p>Special Individual Members or 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.</p> <p>Special Individual Members and Individual Members as well as 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 WPA ethical standards as specified in the By-laws.</p> <p>Special Individual Members 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 Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>Ad article 9 - WPA Special Individual Members, WPA Individual Members and WPA Fellows</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WPA Special Individual Members shall be Psychiatrists who have completed training in psychiatry in a manner acceptable in their country, where there is no WPA Member Society.</li> <li>2. WPA Individual Members shall be physicians or other health professionals and scientists who have training and/or work in the field of psychiatry and mental health.</li> <li>3. WPA Individual Members who have paid their dues for at least five years and have made important contributions to the field of psychiatry can apply for WPA Fellowship.</li> <li>4. Applications for Special Individual Membership, for Individual Membership and for Fellowship will be submitted to the Secretary General.</li> <li>5. The WPA Secretary General will, after having carried out the necessary inquiries including consultation with the Board, submit the application to the WPA Executive Committee for decision about admission.</li> <li>6. Special Individual Members, Individual Members and Fellows shall receive a certificate of their individual status, WPA newsletters and bulletins; they will be able to attend meetings of the WPA. They may, with the agreement of the chairperson of the organizing committee, enjoy a reduction of the registration fee at WPA congresses. They can also apply to become members of Scientific Sections.</li> </ol>

<p>Special Individual Members, and Individual Members as well as Fellows have no voting rights.</p> <p>Termination of Special Individual Membership and Individual Membership Fellowship can be effected by resignation or by decision of the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Article 10 - WPA Honorary Members, Honorary Fellows and Presidential Commendations</b></p> <p>The General Assembly may confer WPA Honorary Membership and WPA Honorary Fellowship.</p> <p>Honorary Membership may be conferred upon individuals who have excelled in their service to the WPA</p> <p>Honorary Fellowship can be conferred upon individuals who have made a very important contribution to the achievements of the WPA goals.</p> <p>Honorary Members and Honorary Fellows can attend the General Assembly as observers, but do not have the right to vote.</p> <p>Termination of Honorary Membership or Honorary Fellowship can be effected by resignation or by decision of General Assembly by a simple majority of those present.</p> <p>The WPA President can, after consultation with the Executive Committee, confer a WPA presidential commendation to individuals who contributed in a significant manner in the work of the WPA.</p>	<p><b>Ad article 10 - WPA Honorary Members and WPA Honorary Fellows and Presidential Commendations</b></p> <p>WPA Honorary Membership and WPA Honorary Fellowship may be conferred upon individuals who especially:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. have made outstanding contributions about the causes, treatment, or prevention of mental illness;</li> <li>2. have substantially increased the understanding and improvement of health services for psychiatric patients;</li> <li>3. have successfully made extraordinary efforts to promote the recognition of the WPA, as well as support the fulfilment of its objectives.</li> </ol> <p>Recommendations for Honorary Membership and Honorary Fellowships will be sent by the President to the Secretary General who will, after appropriate inquiries, submit the proposal to the Executive Committee for consideration and possible submission to the General Assembly for decision.</p> <p>Honorary Members and Honorary Fellows will receive a diploma and WPA newsletters and bulletins. They will be exempted from paying WPA periodic dues. They may with the agreement of the chairperson of the organizing committee, enjoy a reduction of the registration fee at WPA congresses. They can also apply to become members of Scientific Sections</p> <p>Decisions about cessation of Honorary Membership and Honorary Fellowships will be taken by the General Assembly on the basis of proposals by the Executive Committee.</p>

<p><b>Section IV - THE WPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b></p> <p><b>Article 11 - Competences</b></p> <p>The WPA General Assembly is the highest governing body of the WPA.</p> <p>The General Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determines the policies of the WPA;</li> <li>2. Decides on the admission of WPA Member Societies and WPA Affiliated Associations and on the termination of their membership or affiliation;</li> <li>3. Sets the membership dues which it reviews every three years in principle. Thus the Executive Committee may decide on the advice of the Secretary of Finance to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly which may be held digitally according to Article 13 hereafter, in order to reassess the level of membership dues or call for special contributions;</li> <li>4. Approves the financial statement of the WPA closed at the 31st of December of the previous year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee;</li> <li>5. Receives the reports of the Executive Committee concerning the work of the WPA;</li> <li>6. Elects on the occasion of each Ordinary General Assembly, the required number of the Secretaries of the Executive Committee for a term of office of six years and the WPA President Elect;</li> <li>7. Elects on the occasion of each Ordinary General Assembly WPA Zonal Representatives so that their continuity and change are guaranteed;</li> <li>8. Confers Honorary Memberships and Honorary Fellowships, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee;</li> <li>9. Decides on the creation or dissolution of WPA Scientific Sections;</li> <li>10. Decides on changes of the WPA Statutes and By-laws;</li> <li>11. Decides on the dissolution of the WPA as an Association;</li> <li>12. Decides on any issues referred to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Section IV - THE WPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b></p>
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<p><b>Article 12 - Composition</b></p> <p>The General Assembly is composed of the representatives (natural human beings) of the Member Societies who are up-to-date with their membership dues at the date of the meeting of the Accreditation Committee.</p> <p>The President of the WPA usually chairs the General Assembly. In the President’s absence it will be chaired by the President-Elect and in the absence of both, by a member of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The members of the Executive Committee and the Board shall attend the General Assembly on an ex-officio basis, without the right to vote but have the right to speak upon invitation by the Chairperson.</p> <p>Representatives of the Member Societies who are not up to date with their membership dues, members of the Board, members of the Council, Honorary Members, Honorary Fellows, Chairpersons of the Scientific Sections or their representatives, members of Standing Committees, representatives of Affiliated Associations, may attend the General Assembly as observers. They have no right to vote but may speak at the invitation by the Chairperson.</p> <p>If the General Assembly needs to discuss reports or actions that are likely to involve confidential and highly sensitive information, the Chairperson may call the General Assembly into a Closed Session where only the representatives of the Member Societies and members of the Executive Committee may attend. Board and Council Members may also attend Closed Sessions at the discretion of the Chairperson.</p>	<p><b>Ad Article 12- Composition</b></p> <p>A Member Society is represented by one Representative (who cannot represent any other WPA Member Society). Each WPA Society may also authorize an Alternate Representative who, in the absence of the Representative will serve as the Representative</p> <p>Every Representative and Alternate Representative must present a letter of authorization signed by the President or the Secretary General or the equivalent in their Society.</p> <p>Representatives of Applicant Societies may attend the General Assembly as observers and speak upon invitation by the Chairperson. They shall be asked to leave while the application of their Society is voted upon and in any other circumstance at the discretion of the Chairperson.</p>
<p><b>Article 13 - Meetings of the WPA General Assembly:</b></p> <p>General Assemblies may be Ordinary or Extraordinary.</p>	

<p>The Ordinary General Assembly meets every third year preferably in conjunction with a WPA Congress of Psychiatry.</p> <p>Where, as a consequence of events external to the WPA it is not possible to hold the General Assembly, either Ordinary or Extraordinary, in the physical presence of the Representatives of the Members Societies, the Executive Committee, may decide that the General Assembly shall be held by audio or video conference, and its decision be taken by the way of an electronic ballot platform or by correspondence.</p> <p>An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened at any time by the Executive Committee or at the request of one fifth of the Member Societies, or at the request of the absolute majority of the Board Members</p> <p>The results of a General Assembly vote shall be sent by email or other means of communications as determined by the Executive Committee to each Member Society and published on the WPA website.</p>	
<p><b>Article 14 - Convening Notice</b></p> <p>The General Assembly is convened by the Executive Committee at the place and date it decides. Such Convening Notice must be sent at least four months before an Ordinary General Assembly and at least ten days before an Extraordinary General Assembly.</p> <p>The Convening Notice and the draft and final Agenda are sent to all Member Societies and to the other contemplated participants by electronic mail and are simultaneously published on the WPA website.</p> <p><b>Article 15 – Agenda of Ordinary General Assemblies</b></p> <p>The Executive Committee draws up the draft Agenda to be placed before the Ordinary General Assembly and sends it with the</p>	

Convening Notice four months prior to that event.

The Executive Committee gives to the Member Societies and to the WPA Board and Council the possibility to express to the attention of the Secretary General their remarks, wishes and requests on the draft Agenda during one month after the Convening.

The Executive Committee decides discretionarily on such remarks, wishes and requests, but the issues requested by at least one fifth of the Member Societies, or at the request of more than half of the Board members, have to be added to the Agenda.

The final Agenda is published at least twenty days before the Ordinary General Assembly meeting on the Internet site of the WPA with the Documentation.

#### **Article 16– Agenda of Extraordinary General Assemblies**

The Agenda of the Extraordinary General Assemblies is decided by the Executive Committee without further consultation and sent with the Convening Notice.

#### **Article 17 – Documentation**

The Documentation to be published before the General Assembly usually includes:

1. The report of the Executive Committee;
2. The reports of the other bodies of WPA according to the By-laws;
3. The action plan of WPA;
4. The financial statements of WPA and their audit report;
5. The list of candidates to elective functions with their details and curriculum vitae;
6. The proposed modifications of the Statutes and/or By-laws;

and any other documentation which is considered useful by the Executive Committee for the decision taking of the General Assembly.

#### **Article 18 - WPA Accreditation Committee**

WPA Accreditation Committee consists of five members, including WPA Secretary General who will chair it, WPA Secretary for Finances and three more members appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Accreditation Committee meets during the week previous to the General Assembly and validates the voting right of each Member Society at the date of its meeting. Later receipt of payments of dues is not taken in consideration for the validation.

The Accreditation Committee decides also on the voting strength of each Member Society having the right of voting, in accordance with the Statutes and By-laws.

The decisions of the Accreditation Committee are taken at the absolute majority of all its members.

Its decisions are subject to an immediate recourse in front of the General Assembly in consideration of which they are taken, to be expressed at its opening. The decision of the General Assembly on such recourse is taken before any other item of its Agenda, and is final and binding without any other recourse.

#### **Article 19 - Quorum**

The decisions of a General Assembly will be considered valid when at least one third of Member Societies having the right to vote, without consideration of their voting strength, are represented when first convened.

If there is no initial quorum, another General Assembly may be convened immediately by the President of WPA to be held within the next 48 hours, and its decisions will then be considered

valid whatever the number of Member Societies represented be.

**Article 20 – Voting strength**

For the following matters:

1. Elections;
2. and dissolution of WPA as an association;

each Member Society up to date with its membership dues is entitled at least to one vote; in addition, for such matters only, Member Societies are entitled to votes as follows:

1. one additional vote when their total paid membership dues are those of between 26 and 50 Psychiatrists;
2. one additional vote for each group of 50 dues paying Psychiatrists between 51-500;
3. one additional vote for each group of 100 dues paying Psychiatrists between 501 and 1,500;
4. one additional vote for each 200 dues paying Psychiatrists above 1,501 up to a maximum of 40 additional votes;
5. those Member Societies with paid membership dues between 10,001 and 25,000 Psychiatrists will be allocated 50 votes;
6. and those with (paid) membership above 25,000 Psychiatrists will be allocated 60 votes.

In all other matters each Member Society having the right to vote in the General Assembly shall have one vote only.

**Article 21 –Decisions**

For the dissolution of the WPA as an association, for the amendments to the Statutes, and for the exclusion of a Member Society, decisions of the General Assembly will be made by an absolute two-third majority vote

**Ad article 20 – Voting Strength**

The grid of voting strength according to article 20 is as follows

MEMBERS	Votes	MEMBERS	Votes
1 – 25	1	1401 – 1500	21
26 – 50	2	1501 – 1700	22
51 – 100	3	1701 – 1900	23
101 – 150	4	1901 – 2100	24
151 – 200	5	2101 – 2300	25
201 – 250	6	2301 – 2500	26
251 – 300	7	2501 – 2700	27
301 – 350	8	2701 – 2900	28
351 – 400	9	2901 – 3100	29
401 – 450	10	3101 – 3300	30
451 – 500	11	3301 – 3500	31
501 – 600	12	3501 – 3700	32
601 – 700	13	3701 – 3900	33
701 – 800	14	3901 – 4100	34
801 – 900	15	4101 – 4300	35
901 – 1000	16	4301 – 4500	36
1001 – 1100	17	4501 – 4700	37
1101 – 1200	18	4701 – 4900	38
1201 – 1300	19	4901 – 5100	39
1301 – 1400	20	5101 - 10000	40
		10001–25000	50
		25001 and more	60

The mean yearly membership between General Assemblies should be used for the above calculations.

In case of secret ballots, the Representatives will receive ballots representing a small number of votes (1,5,10) which together add to the Member Society’s total voting power.

**Ad article 21 - Decisions**

The Robert’s Rules of Order, in their latest edition, will guide the conduct of the WPA Assemblies’ work, including the handling of motions, unless specified differently in the Statutes, By-laws or Manual of Procedures.

<p>of the represented Member Societies, in accordance with their voting strength on the matter.</p> <p>For the elections, decisions of the General Assembly will be made by a relative majority vote of the represented Member Societies, in accordance with their voting strength on the matter.</p> <p>All other decisions of the General Assembly will be made by an absolute simple majority vote of the represented Member Societies.</p> <p>There will be no voting by proxy to anybody else than the Representative of the respective Member Society.</p> <p>For the calculation of the majorities of the General Assemblies, abstentions will not be taken into account.</p> <p>In case of parity of votes, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote or decide that another turn of voting be immediately done.</p> <p>The General Assembly shall usually decide by a show of hands on all questions on the Agenda.</p> <p>Secret paper ballot will be used for the elections, for the exclusion of a Member Society, for the dissolution of WPA as an association, and for any other issue if a request for a secret ballot is made by at least one fifth of the Representatives of the Member Society.</p> <p>Where, as a consequence of events external to the WPA it is not possible to hold the General Assembly in physical presence of the Representatives of the Members Societies, the Executive Committee, may decide that the elections and other agenda items for the General Assembly which require decisions shall be carried out using electronic voting.</p>	
<p><b>Section V - WPA BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Article 22 – The WPA Board and its work:</b></p>	<p><b>Section V - WPA BOARD</b></p>

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 advises the Executive Committee and the General Assembly on the work of the WPA, including in particular:

1. its efforts to strengthen collaboration among Member Societies in the WPA Zones;
2. the admission or suspension of Member Societies;
3. the creation of Scientific Sections;
4. the Plan of Action of the 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 General Assemblies;
7. the report of the WPA Nominations Committee concerning candidates for elective posts and recommendations concerning the voting procedures.

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 Meetings 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 Executive Committee and the Member Societies. They will in turn keep the Executive Committee informed about their collaboration with Member Societies, their needs, functioning and achievements.

The Board where appropriate will seek advice from the Council.

**Article 23 - WPA Board meetings:**

<p>The Board will meet annually, in principle, at a WPA Congress of Psychiatry. Board meetings or teleconferences may be held between these occasions.</p> <p>The President of the WPA will chair the Board and the Board will elect a Vice Chair every year by simple majority.</p> <p>The WPA Secretary General will draw the agenda of the Board meetings in consultation with its members and the Executive Committee and include any or all of the items proposed by Board Members.</p> <p>The quorum for the Board meetings will be half plus one of its members.</p>	
<p><b>Article 24 - The role of WPA Board Members:</b></p> <p>The Board Members should play a key coordinating role within their WPA Zones, work together and explore collaborations that are institutionally functional. They shall encourage collaboration among Member Societies in their Zone and stimulate their participation in all the WPA activities.</p> <p>They shall support the dissemination of WPA related information and WPA educational materials. They shall assist the Executive Committee in ascertaining the needs of Member Societies and the ways in which these needs can be met.</p> <p>Board members shall report and advise the Executive Committee on policies and activities in their WPA Zones.</p> <p><b>Article 25 – Election of the WPA Zonal Representatives and their eligibility for further Offices</b></p> <p>Zonal Representatives are elected for an initial period of three years and they can stand competitively for re-election for a second and final period of three years.</p>	<p><b>Ad article 25 - Election of the WPA Zonal Representatives and their eligibility for further Offices</b></p> <p>The 18 Zonal Representatives are elected, one from each of the following 18 zones grouped into 4 regions:</p> <p>A. <u>The Americas (5 zones)</u></p>

<p>The office of the newly elected Zonal Representatives begins at the end of the General Assembly that elected them, and finishes at the end of the subsequent General Assembly. The General Assembly elects them in accordance with the By-Laws.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canada</li> <li>2. United States</li> <li>3. Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean</li> <li>4. South America - Northern Zone</li> <li>5. South America - Southern Zone</li> </ol>
<p>Members of the Board are allowed to present their candidature for election to a position on the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>B. <u>Europe (5 zones)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Western Europe</li> <li>7. Northern Europe</li> <li>8. Southern Europe</li> <li>9. Central Europe</li> <li>10. Eastern Europe</li> </ol>
<p>Candidates for Zonal Representatives are not eligible to apply for an elected Executive Committee post at the same time.</p>	<p>C. <u>Africa, Middle East, Central and Western Asia (4 zones)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Northern Africa</li> <li>12. Middle East and Central and Western Asia</li> <li>13. Central and Western Africa</li> <li>14. Eastern and Southern Africa</li> </ol> <p>D. <u>Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific (4 zones)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. South East Asia</li> <li>16. South Asia</li> <li>17. Eastern Asia</li> <li>18. Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific</li> </ol>
	<p>The assignment of Member Societies to a zone shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.</p>
	<p>The election procedure of the Board Members is as follows:</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chair of the Nominations Committee writes to each WPA Member Society at least nine months prior to the WPA General Assembly, requesting that the Member Society recommends one psychiatrist from the countries composing the relevant WPA Zone for the available position. Only Member Societies from a given Zone can nominate candidates for that Zone. In WPA Zones consisting of two or more countries the representative should not come from the same country as his immediate predecessor</li> </ol>

2. In a WPA Zone where there is only one Member Society, the Society may nominate one or more candidate(s) as their Zonal Representative and present that name(s) to the General Assembly to elect a candidate.

3. The Nominations Committee examines the eligibility of candidates, compiles the names submitted from each WPA Zone and, whenever more than two candidates are eligible, it requests, through its Chair, each Member Society within that Zone to vote for two candidates from the circulated list.

4. The Nominations Committee sends its report to the Executive Committee and the Board.

5. The Nominations Committee presents to the General Assembly as nominees for the available position the two individuals who have received the highest number of unweighted votes from the Member Societies of the WPA Zone. When only one candidate is eligible it will be automatically included in the list to be proposed to the WPA General Assembly for voting.

6. The General Assembly receives the report of the Nominations Committee, along with the views of the Executive Committee and the Board and elects one of the two nominees.

7. If WPA Zonal Representatives are unable to continue serving in their posts until the end of their mandate, the Executive Committee has the right to appoint an interim Zonal Representative to carry out the tasks assigned to the vacant post until the next WPA General Assembly

The appointment to a post of an interim WPA Zonal Representative does not affect the eligibility of that person for any elective post in the WPA.

<p><b>Section VI - WPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>Article 26 - WPA Executive Committee:</b></p> <p>The decision making power of the WPA between General Assemblies are vested in the WPA Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee implements the decisions of the 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 Manual of Procedures, and prepares the materials for the WPA General Assemblies.</p> <p>The Executive Committee shall have seven members, natural human beings including the WPA President, the WPA President-Elect (Vice President), the WPA Secretary General and four other Secretaries with defined functions (Finances, Scientific Sections, Scientific Meetings, Education and Scientific Publications).</p> <p>The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a period of six years (in a staggered manner).</p> <p>Candidates nominated for an Executive Committee post are not eligible to apply for a Zonal Representative post at the same time.</p> <p>The quorum for the meetings of the Executive Committee is four members, including the President and/or the President Elect (Vice President).</p>	<p><b>Section VI - WPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>Ad article 26 - Executive Committee</b></p> <p>The General Assembly elects by secret vote candidates to fill posts vacated by members who have completed their term of office. Should members of the Executive Committee become unable to perform their functions or do not comply with the Oath of Office, the other members of the Executive Committee have the right to appoint an interim officer to carry out the tasks assigned to the vacant post until the next Ordinary General Assembly, which can confirm the appointment of the interim officer as a member of the Executive Committee, or proceed to the election of another replacement member. The mandate of new members of the Executive Committee will begin at the end of the General Assembly which elects them.</p> <p>The appointment to or confirmation to a post of an interim officer of the Executive Committee does not affect the eligibility of that person for any elective post in the WPA, nor does it affect the requirement to elect a candidate from a different country.</p>

<p>The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by an absolute simple majority vote of those voting. Abstentions will not be taken into account. There will be no voting by proxy.</p> <p>In case of parity of votes, the President or in case of the President’s absence, the President Elect (Vice-President) has the casting vote.</p> <p>For all other matters, the Executive Committee decides on its rules of organisation.</p>	
<p><b>Article 27 – Election of members of the WPA Executive Committee</b></p> <p>The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly, in accordance with the By-laws. Any elected member of the Executive Committee may serve on the Executive Committee only once for no more than one six-year term.</p> <p>Thus, any member, or former member, of the Executive Committee may be elected then to the position of President Elect (Vice-President) and serve for six more years.</p> <p>In no case may the immediate successor to the same position be elected from the same Member Society or country.</p>	
<p><b>Article 28 – Meetings of the WPA Executive Committee:</b></p> <p>The meetings of the Executive Committee will be held at least three times a year, in presence or by teleconference, and shall be scheduled and convened by the President. Any other member of the Executive Committee may require that a meeting be scheduled for legitimate reasons and/or that an issue is added to the agenda.</p> <p>The costs for the Executive Committee meetings, including travel expenses, accommodation, per diem and meeting</p>	

<p>facilities will be covered by WPA central funds when not covered by other funding sources.</p>	
<p><b>Article 29 – The WPA President:</b></p> <p>The WPA President shall have served as President-Elect (Vice-President) for three years before assuming office as President for a further three years.</p> <p>The President represents the WPA in all official matters and speaks on its behalf. The President usually chairs all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, and should lead and when necessary support the members of the Executive Committee in the performance of their functions.</p> <p>The President will promote the activities of the different components of the WPA and their mutual collaboration to achieve the goals of the WPA.</p> <p>The President convenes the Executive Committee and decides its agenda in consultation with the Executive Committee Members.</p> <p>The 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 President selects Special Advisors to the President.</p> <p>The President chairs the WPA Nominations Committee and appoints its members, in consultation with the Executive Committee</p> <p>The President presides over the WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry.</p> <p>The President reports to the General Assembly and in the interim to the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Article 30 – The WPA President-Elect (Vice President)</b></p>	

<p>The General Assembly elects the President Elect for a period of six years, of which the WPA President Elect serves as Vice-President for three years and as WPA President for three years.</p> <p>The President-Elect (Vice President) shall chair the WPA Standing Committee on Planning.</p> <p>In the absence of the President, or if the President is unable to carry out the President’s functions, the President-Elect (Vice President) shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the General Assembly, and will be the point of contact for the WPA Board</p> <p>The President-Elect (Vice President) will represent the President in the President’s absence or upon the President’s request in all official functions.</p> <p>The WPA President-Elect (Vice President) reports to the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Article 31 – The WPA Secretary General:</b></p> <p>The WPA Secretary General is elected by the WPA General Assembly for a term of six years.</p> <p>The Secretary General has the responsibility to ensure that the Secretariat is well governed and organised and provides appropriate support 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.</p> <p>The WPA Secretary General, in close collaboration with the Board, ensures that the members of the WPA are kept well informed of the discussions and decisions of the Executive Committee and of other Committees and the General Assembly, and also relates all concerns and opinions of the members to these bodies. The WPA Secretary General coordinates the work of the members of the Board and serves</p>	

<p>as liaison between them and the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Secretary General chairs the Accreditation Committee.</p> <p>The Secretary General reports to the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Article 32 – The Secretary for Finance</b></p> <p><b>The</b> General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Finances for a term of six years.</p> <p>The Secretary of 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 assets.</p> <p>The Secretary of Finances presents, after consultation with the Zone Representatives the WPA yearly budget to the Executive Committee for approval and supervises its management.</p> <p>The Secretary for Finances will be a member of any Committee relating to finance appointed by the President.</p> <p>The Secretary for Finances presents a report to each meeting of the Executive Committee, to the Board and the WPA General Assembly, and presents an annual budget to the Executive Committee for approval.</p>	
<p><b>Article 33 - The WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications</b></p> <p>The General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications for a term of six years.</p> <p>The Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications co-ordinates the educational activities of the Association and ensures the distribution of educational programmes of the WPA in co-operation with the Zonal Representatives and as necessary with the</p>	

<p>Secretaries for Scientific Sections and for Scientific Meetings, the Executive Committee and the Member Societies.</p> <p>The Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications is also responsible for implementing the editorial policies of the WPA and maintains oversight of its publications. The Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications will be a member of any publication committee appointed by the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The WPA Secretary for Education and Scientific Publications reports to the Executive Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Article 34 - The WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections:</b></p> <p>The General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Scientific Sections for a term of six years.</p> <p>The 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.</p> <p>The Secretary for Scientific Sections serves as adviser to the Scientific Sections in the planning of Section Symposia or other activities.</p> <p>The Secretary for Scientific Sections coordinates and facilitates WPA inter-sectional collaboration and also the collaboration of the Scientific Sections with the Member Societies.</p> <p>The Secretary for Scientific Sections reports to the Executive Committee.</p> <p><b>Article 35 – The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings</b></p> <p>The WPA General Assembly elects the WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings for a term of six years.</p>	

The WPA Secretary of Scientific Meetings oversees the co-ordination of all scientific meetings of the WPA. The WPA Secretary for Scientific Meetings is responsible for the development of proposals to host WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry and helps in all aspects of the organisation of other WPA scientific meetings work.

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

### **Article 36 – Powers of Signature**

Upon taking their office and until the end of their term of office, the President and the Vice-President (President-Elect) shall have statutory individual signing authority to engage the WPA in all matters.

The Executive Committee shall designate from among its members, and from among the Officers of the Secretariat, the other persons entitled to represent the WPA, as well as their signing authority and the manner in which they exercise it.

The President, the Vice-President (President-Elect) and the Executive Committee may also appoint proxies for the performance of particular tasks.

### **Article 37 - WPA Institutional Programmes**

The WPA Institutional Programmes aim at achieving broad WPA statutory purposes. Approval of the creation or continuation of an Institutional Programme is granted by the Executive Committee and ratified by the 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.

<p>After an WPA Institutional Programme is established, an annual report on its progress should be submitted to the Executive Committee for information, assessment and approval.</p>	
<p><b>Section VII - WPA STANDING COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS</b></p> <p><b>Article 38 – The WPA Standing Committees:</b></p> <p>There will be the following Standing Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education and Scientific Publications;</li> <li>- Ethics and Review;</li> <li>- Finance and Fundraising;</li> <li>- Nominations;</li> <li>- Planning;</li> <li>- Scientific Meetings;</li> <li>- Scientific Sections.</li> </ul> <p>The membership of all WPA Standing Committees should include a Zonal Representative and an Early Career psychiatrist as defined in the By-laws.</p> <p>Each Standing Committee will have five members including its Chairperson.</p> <p>All Standing Committees and Task Forces report to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The tasks, responsibilities, membership and term of office of the Standing Committees, Task Forces and their members and Special Advisors of the President are outlined in the By-laws.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee shall report to the Executive Committee. In case of disagreement between the two committees, the President of the WPA may seek the advice of the Board and Council.</p>	<p><b>Section VII - WPA STANDING COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS</b></p> <p><b>Ad article 38 - The WPA Standing Committees</b></p> <p>The appointment and dismissal of members of the Committees, Task Forces and appointment of Presidential Advisors are instituted by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The usual term of office for officers and committee members of Scientific Sections is three years. In order to achieve continuity, the President can invite individual members to serve a second term.</p> <p>The WPA President seeks suggestions for appointments to the Committees from Member Societies, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Board. The Committees can, upon the approval of the Executive Committee, invite other experts to help them in particular tasks.</p> <p>These appointees will not be paid any salary or fee from the WPA, nor will they be liable for any debts incurred by the WPA.</p> <p>1. WPA Committee on Education and Scientific Publications: The Education and Scientific Publications Committee shall have the responsibility to oversee the development of the WPA’s educational programmes and the preparation of materials for these programmes. It shall be responsible for developing and implementing the WPA’s continuing medical educational accreditation and to oversee the development of the WPA’s publications policies as well as the preparation of materials for publication.</p>

2. WPA Committee on Ethics and Review:  
The Committee on Ethics and Review shall have the responsibility to identify and explore areas of ethical concern to psychiatry and to produce recommendations, and to draft consensus statements on ethical issues. The Committee on Ethics and Review shall review individual complaints and other related issues and initiate investigations about violations of the ethical guidelines for the practice of psychiatry as stated in the By-laws in order to make recommendations. The Committee on Ethics and Review shall draft the text of the Oath of Office to be signed by the Members of the Executive Committee and the Board.

This Committee will be composed of a Chair, a Co-chair and additionally, three other members. The Co-chair, will be, in addition to being a member of this Committee, Chair of the WPA Task Forces appointed to conduct reviews of abuses of the profession when appropriate complaints are raised with the WPA. When a WPA Task Force is appointed for review purposes, no more than four members will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee for this purpose.

Member Societies are obliged to cooperate with the Ethics and Review Committee in the investigation of cases.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Ethics and Review shall report to the Executive Committee.

3. WPA Committee on Finances and Fundraising:

The Committee on Finances and Fundraising shall have the responsibility to stimulate and oversee the development and conduction of the Association's policies and activities concerning finances, investments, fundraising and auditing of accounts, as well as to formulate recommendations for the annual budget and the triennial financial plan of the WPA, and to advise the Secretary for Finances for appropriate necessary actions.

The Committee on Finance and Fundraising will consist of five members including the Secretary for Finance. This Committee may be chaired by an external financial expert for an initial period of three years. At the completion of this initial period, as a general guideline, not more than three and not less than two of the members of the Committee on Finance and Fundraising may be reappointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and of the Secretary for Finances, for a second term of three years; however, if needed and appropriate, all four members of this committee can be replaced under exceptional circumstances.

4. The WPA Nominations Committee:  
The Nominations Committee makes proposals concerning elections for all elected posts of the WPA, in accordance with the By-Laws.

The Members of the Nominations Committee should be appointed at least one year before the election takes place.

The Nominations Committee can make proposals concerning the voting procedures, and give its views on other relevant matters, including the post-election report on things that succeeded well, and things that need to be considered for implementation or changes for the next election process.

The WPA Nominations Committee's views and proposals will be considered by the Executive Committee and the Board and then submitted to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee, along with the Board's opinion.

The President of WPA will chair the Nominations Committee which consists of five members. The Nominations Committee will include one member chosen by the President who has in-depth knowledge of the organization and membership; one member of the Executive Committee whose term will continue after the next General Assembly; one member of the Board; and one member of the Ethics and Review Committee; reflecting a geographical and membership balance. Members of the Nominations Committee

	<p>may not be a nominee for any elective post during their mandate.</p> <p>The Chair of the Nominations Committee will request proposals at least nine months before the election and proposals must be received by the Chair of the Nominations Committee not less than six months before the meeting of the General Assembly.</p> <p>The WPA Nominations Committee ensures that nominations are valid and the candidates are eligible. The candidates must state in writing that they agree with the nomination and that they are fulfilling the requirements for the position announced for election. The Committee will consider past experience and other positions with the WPA held by the nominees. The Nominations Committee can reject nominees based on past work performance.</p> <p>The Committee will also ensure that each nominee has provided suitable referees who can vouch that their behaviour is in accordance with the WPA Code of Conduct. The WPA reserves the right to ask for additional specific references</p> <p>All valid nominations for eligible candidates will be presented to the General Assembly.</p> <p>Nominees for the Executive Committee cannot hold any offices in Member Societies that extend beyond two years after their election.</p> <p>The Nominations Committee can make proposals concerning the voting procedures and give its views on other relevant matters. The Nominations Committee's views and proposals will be considered by the Board and Executive Committee and then submitted to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee, along with the Board's opinion.</p> <p>Amendments of the Statutes and By-laws on elections shall not affect any ongoing electoral process.</p> <p>5. WPA Committee on Planning:</p>
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	<p>The Committee on Planning shall consist of five members, and the WPA President-Elect (Vice-President) shall chair the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee will include at least one member of the Executive Committee, one member of the Board, and additional experts with knowledge of the WPA as appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee on Planning shall have the responsibility of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) reviewing the Statutes and By-laws taking into account the relevant suggestions and proposals and making recommendations of changes of the Statutes and By-laws;</li><li>b) preparing triennial WPA Action Plans (including their financial aspects) to be presented to the General Assembly for approval after consultation with the Executive Committee;</li><li>c) making suggestions for planning for WPA's long-term development, its programs and resource utilization.</li></ul> <p>The Chairperson of the Committee on Planning shall report to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>6. WPA Committee on Scientific Meetings: The Committee on Scientific Meetings shall have the responsibility for the organisation of the Scientific Meetings.</p> <p>7. The WPA Committee on Scientific Sections: The Committee on Scientific Sections shall have the responsibility for advising and overseeing the WPA's scientific policies and activities carried out by the Scientific Sections and encouraging inter-Section collaboration.</p> <p>8. WPA Task Forces and WPA Special Advisors to the President: The WPA President may appoint Task Forces and WPA Special Advisors to the President after consultation with the Executive Committee for specified tasks for a specified period of time.</p>
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	<p>The President may decide to establish a Task Force on Science. The Chair and members will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Board and Council. The Chair will be an acknowledged international scientific leader working with a small group of experts. The Task Force will advise the President and the Executive Committee on international developments in science working closely with the Secretaries of Education and Scientific Publications and Scientific Sections.</p>
<p><b>Section VIII - The WPA COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>Article 39 – Composition and tasks of the WPA Council</b></p> <p>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 lifelong members.</p> <p>The members of the Council will appoint among themselves a Chairperson for a period of three years. The Council offers recommendations and advice to the Executive Committee about any matters affecting the mission and strategy of WPA, and may propose items for the agenda of the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Council may be asked to provide its opinion on questions submitted to it by the President of the WPA or its Executive Committee</p> <p>The WPA President will draw the agenda of the meetings of the Council after consultation with its members and the Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>Section VIII - The WPA COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>Ad article 39 – Composition and tasks of the Council</b></p> <p>Council members and Emeritus Council members will be entitled to free registration at any WPA sponsored meeting.</p> <p>The agenda of the General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly will include the item “Report of the WPA Council”. The Report will be prepared in writing. The Chairperson of the Assembly may invite the Chairperson of the Council to introduce the document or to answer questions from the Assembly members.</p> <p>The agenda of the Board will include the item “Report of the WPA Council”. The Council will prepare a brief statement containing its opinion for distribution to the Board. The Chairperson of the Board may invite the Chairperson of the Council to introduce the document or to answer questions.</p> <p>The Council will be invited to present its views on the draft agendas of the General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly and on policy documents prepared by the WPA (e.g. the WPA position statements) and on the admission of new Societies or the cessation of Member Societies.</p> <p>The Council will receive reports of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board. Its comments and suggestions will be received by the Executive Committee.</p>

<p><b>Article 40 – Meetings of the WPA Council:</b> The Council shall meet with the Executive Committee every three years at a WPA World Congress of Psychiatry prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. Council meetings or teleconferences may be held between these occasions.</p>	
<p><b>Section IX - FINANCES</b></p>	<p><b>Section IX - FINANCES</b></p>
<p><b>Article 41 - Resources and Expenditures:</b></p> <p>The resources of WPA includes membership and affiliation dues, donations, subsidies, both public and private, and overheads 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Article 42 – Financial management</b></p> <p>The assets of the WPA will be utilized solely to meet its financial liabilities. The Executive Committee is responsible for the financial management of the WPA in accordance with the WPA plans and budget. It may delegate this task to the Secretary for Finance.</p>	<p><b>Ad Article 41 – Resources and Expenditures</b></p> <p>Upon the basis of the report of the Secretary for Finances and the Executive Committee, the General Assembly decides upon the amount of the dues of Member Societies, Affiliated Associations, Affiliated Individual Members, and Fellows. The Secretary for Finances may negotiate the mode of payment with each Member Society as appropriate. The Executive Committee shall approve any special agreements.</p> <p>Member Societies that have not paid their dues for three years will lose their membership, unless there are exceptional circumstances to be considered by the WPA Executive Committee and the General Assembly.</p> <p><b>Ad Article 42- Financial Management</b></p> <p>All persons authorized by the President to raise funds to finance WPA scientific meetings or other projects shall, within two months of the completion of the activity or fundraising effort, submit a detailed account of income and expenditures to the Secretary for Finances</p> <p>An authorized audit firm in Switzerland, the choice of which will be approved by the General Assembly by simple majority of votes, will audit the accounts of the WPA.</p>
<p><b>Article 43 – Corporate Supporters:</b></p>	

<p>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.</p> <p>The WPA recognises that there may be ethical considerations around accepting support from industry including the pharmaceutical industry, and shall prevent any conflict of interests.</p>	
<p><b>Article 44 – Expenses related to WPA work</b></p> <p>The President and other members of the Executive Committee will receive funds to defray expenses connected to their WPA work. The amount will be determined by the Executive Committee annually. The Council, the Board, and the Committees and other WPA Officers will not be paid any salary or fee for their services to the WPA but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.</p> <p>No individual member of an organ of the WPA shall be personally liable for debts incurred by the WPA</p>	
<p><b>Section X - WPA SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS</b></p> <p><b>Article 45 – Scientific Meetings and Congresses</b></p> <p>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 according to the By-laws.</p>	<p><b>Section X - WPA SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS</b></p> <p><b>Ad article 45 – Scientific Meetings and Congresses</b></p> <p>The WPA will usually hold one major Congress each year with the option of organizing other Congresses. Every effort will be made to hold the Congress in different parts of the world.</p> <p>The WPA’s goals in holding and co-sponsoring Scientific Meetings are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the exchange of information between psychiatrists from different parts of the world, including networking, training and mentoring of early career psychiatrists.</li> <li>2. Contribute to the education of different categories of mental health workers by providing up-to-date scientific information.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Increase exchange and collaboration between psychiatrists and their community, professional, government and development partners in all parts of the world.</p> <p>4. Boost collaborative research by bringing together psychiatrists and others interested in research from various parts of the world.</p> <p>5. Strengthen links between WPA Member Societies and between WPA and international and regional organizations in the field of psychiatry.</p> <p>6. Make psychiatry more visible on the national and the international scenes.</p> <p>7. Contribute to the acquisition of funds for WPA activities</p>
<p><b>Section XI - WPA SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Article 46 - Establishment, competences and organisation</b></p> <p>Scientific Sections are created and dissolved by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive Committee. Their aims, principles of organisation are defined in the By-laws and all other questions concerning them are decided by the Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>Section XI - WPA SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Ad article 46 – Establishment, competences and organisation</b></p> <p>(1) The Aims and Objectives of Scientific Sections are: the collection, analysis, presentation and dissemination of information concerning services, research and training in the various fields of psychiatry and mental health and the advancement of scientific knowledge in these fields.</p> <p>WPA Scientific Sections will achieve this purpose by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organization of scientific meetings on topics of interest to WPA Scientific Section;</li> <li>• organization of Symposia dealing with a given Scientific Section's specialty, at WPA Congresses and co-sponsored meetings;</li> <li>• development of educational programs, guidelines and related scientific publications;</li> <li>• development of proposals for adoption as WPA consensus and position statements;</li> <li>• promotion and conduct and facilitation of international collaborative research activities.</li> <li>• developing programs in consultation with other Scientific Sections and promoting intersectional activities.</li> <li>• preparation of regular financial reports as requested by the Executive Committee.</li> </ul> <p>These aims and objectives will be supported and monitored by the Secretary for the Scientific</p>

Sections in consultation with the Executive Committee and in other governance activities of WPA.

(2) Establishing a new Scientific Section:

In the period between General Assemblies, but no later than six months prior to a General Assembly, the Executive Committee will consider applications for the establishment of a Scientific Section.

To obtain approval, the new WPA Scientific Section must:

- submit the necessary terms of reference to the Secretary for Sections to define the area of specialty of the proposed Section and indicate how the proposed Scientific Section differs from other Scientific Sections dealing with related matters.
- have an organizing committee consisting of at least ten members, no more than two of which may be from the same country.
- present a plan for what activities it proposes to undertake.

The General Assembly immediately following the proposed establishment of the Scientific Section, will approve the Scientific Section provided that it has:

- a roster of 20 or more members that has been accepted by the Secretary for Scientific Sections;
- elected a Scientific Section Committee from among its members consisting of no more than eight members, three of whom may be a Chair, a Co-chair and a Secretary of the Scientific Section. The Scientific Section Committee shall be the governing body of the Scientific Section;
- has produced a program of its planned activities and indicated its relevance to the achievement of WPA goals.

(3) Reinstatement of WPA Scientific Sections:

Scientific Sections must be reinstated every three years by the Executive Committee, upon

recommendation of the Secretary for Scientific Sections. In order to be reinstated for an additional three years, Scientific Sections must:

- have at least 20 members, from different regions;
- have held an election for the Scientific Section Committee and officers;
- have presented a plan of action at the start of the term;
- have organized at least two symposia at WPA meetings in the three-year period between General Assemblies;
- have carried out activities described in the proposed plan of work e.g. produced positions statements in their area of expertise, published materials supporting WPA educational programmes, carried out relevant research work;
- have updated information on the website on activities and publications of the Section and its members;
- have carried out activities described in its plan of work or presented valid reasons for not having done so and has presented financial reports as requested by the Executive Committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary for Scientific Sections, the Executive Committee can reinstate and make recommendations concerning steps that should be taken to improve the Scientific Section activities, which may include replacements of Scientific Section Committee members or of the Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary of a given scientific section. The Secretary for Scientific Sections will refer those recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Secretary will monitor their implementation and will report back to the Executive Committee.

If a Scientific Section does not meet the requirements specified above, the Secretary for Scientific Sections may recommend to the Executive Committee that the Scientific Section be dissolved.

The absence of an Executive Committee's approval of reinstatement leads to the dissolution of the Scientific Section with immediate effect. The Scientific Section may petition the General

	<p>Assembly for reinstatement at the meeting of the General Assembly following its dissolution.</p> <p>To be eligible for reconsideration, the Scientific Section must present to the Secretary for Scientific Sections all the required information described for its establishment. The Executive Committee will transmit the matter to the General Assembly with its recommendations.</p> <p>(4) Scientific Sections Membership:</p> <p>WPA Scientific Sections may enrol non-psychiatric medical and non-medical persons from related professions into Scientific Sections membership.</p> <p>Secretary for Scientific Sections should be provided at least annually with an updated Scientific Section membership list.</p> <p>(5) Scientific Section Committee and Officers:</p> <p>Each Scientific Section can elect a committee which is usually comprised of three officers (Chair, Co-chair and Secretary) and other committee members. Chairs of Scientific Sections may not chair another Scientific Section during their term of office. Any Scientific Section Member is eligible to be a member of the Scientific Section Committee except for members of the WPA Executive Committee. At least two of the Scientific Section Officers must be qualified psychiatrists.</p> <p>A Scientific Section Member should serve no more than six consecutive years as an elected Scientific Section officer and no more than nine consecutive years as a member of the Scientific Section Committee in any role.</p> <p>The registration fees during WPA World Congresses of Psychiatry and other WPA Scientific Meetings will be reduced for the Chairperson of a Scientific Section that is organizing scientific presentation or event during the meeting or waived when the budgetary situation permits it.</p> <p>(6) Scientific Section Meetings and Elections:</p>
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Scientific Section meetings should be held, if possible, at an annual WPA Congress of Psychiatry, at least once during each three-year authorized term for the Scientific Section. The Scientific Section Committee may meet as many times as necessary to conduct the business of the Scientific Section.

Minutes of each Section or Scientific Section Committee meeting must be kept and copies made available to the Secretary for Scientific Sections.

Members of the Executive Committee may attend any Section or Scientific Section Committee meeting.

The election of Scientific Section officers will take place every three years either at a Section meeting or by electronic ballot. A plan should be prepared by the Section Committee, for approval by the Secretary of Sections, which includes details of the call for nominations and the balloting procedure. If an election is to be held at a Scientific Section meeting, the meeting must be attended by more than one third of the Section members.

If it is not possible to hold the required election of a Scientific Section Committee and officers at a duly called Section meeting because the required quorum is not present, the election may be held by mail ballot or in another manner specified in the WPA Manual of Procedures.

(7) Sections' Finances:

Each Scientific Section should follow the By-laws of WPA for financial matters and protocols for accepting donations. Scientific Sections should not open or operate any independent account but should be part of the WPA central accounting. Scientific Sections should get advice from the WPA Secretariat about management of financial matters relating to Scientific Section work. WPA will charge a standard fee as decided periodically by the WPA for administering these finances. Scientific Section projects, which involve financial transactions over a specified amount agreed by the Executive Committee, will need to be

approved in advance by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Secretary for Scientific Sections.

The Executive Committee, on recommendation of the Secretary for Scientific Sections and the Secretary for Finances may allocate funds to one or more special projects of a Scientific Section or Scientific Sections within their field of work.

(8) Section Reports:

Each Scientific Section Committee shall submit an activity report to the Secretary for Scientific Sections once a year. The report should contain details of the WPA Scientific Section's administrative and scientific activities and its future scientific plans.

The planned programme should reflect the aims and objectives of the particular Scientific Section and its declared plans and be in accordance with the overall aims and principles. The report outlining the Scientific Section's activity over the period between General Assemblies should be submitted to the Secretary for Scientific Sections six months prior to the date of the next General Assembly.

(9) Organization of Scientific Section Meetings:

Whenever a Scientific Section wishes to sponsor a Scientific Meeting, permission should be sought in advance from the Secretary for Scientific Sections who will consult the Secretary for Scientific Meetings and provide advice to the Section. The manner of financing these Scientific Meetings should be discussed with the Secretary for Scientific Sections in order to facilitate the acquisition of funds.

The planned program should reflect the aims and objectives of the particular Scientific Section and its declared plans and be in accordance with the overall aims and principles of the WPA.

(10) Use of logo by Sections:

	<p>The Sections need to gain approval from the WPA Secretariat before any use of the logo or adding names prior to using the letterhead. When WPA letterhead is used to seek funding or for official Section correspondence, copies need to be submitted to the WPA Secretariat.</p> <p>This use does not apply to publications for which the Secretary of Publications will take the decision in consultation with the Executive Committee the same way the Secretary for Scientific Meetings responds to co-sponsorship and use of logo.</p>
<p><b>Section XII - WPA ETHICAL STANDARDS</b></p> <p><b>Article 47 - Code of Conduct and WPA Oath of Office</b></p> <p>The WPA expects the highest ethical standards from those who serve on the Executive Committee, Board, Council, formally established WPA Committees and Task Forces, and as Special Advisors to the President.</p> <p>All these individuals are expected to comply with the WPA Code of Conduct; moreover, Members of the Executive Committee and the Board shall sign the Oath of Office, as defined by the Ethics and Review Committee according to the By-laws.</p> <p><b>Section XIII - NORMATIVE RANKS AND AMENDMENTS OF RULES</b></p> <p><b>Article 48 - Rank of Statutes, By-Laws and Manual of Procedures</b></p> <p>The WPA Statutes is the highest normative instrument of WPA. It conceptually defines the</p>	<p><b>Section XII – WPA ETHICAL STANDARDS</b></p> <p><b>Ad Article 47- Code of Conduct and WPA Oath of Office</b></p> <p>After their election, Members of the Executive Committee and the Board shall be asked to sign the Oath of Office as drafted by the Committee on Ethics and Review and to sign and commit to comply with the WPA Code of Conduct as specified in the By-laws.</p> <p>After their appointment, formally established WPA Committees Task Forces and Special Advisers to the President will be asked to sign and commit to comply with the Code of Conduct as specified in the By-laws.</p> <p>Refusal to sign the Oath of Office and/or the Code of Conduct, after a summons to do so by the Executive Committee, will be deemed to be an immediate resignation of the Officer.</p>

<p>nature, goals, organic and functional structures, and the basic functional areas of WPA.</p> <p>The WPA By-laws further details the content of the Statutes in order to establish functional plans and activities for the WPA.</p> <p>The Manual of Procedures contains specific operational guidelines aimed at promoting effectiveness and transparency in the works of WPA, fully respecting the provisions of the Statutes and By-laws.</p>	
<p><b>Article 49 - Amendments of the WPA Statutes, WPA By-laws and WPA Manual of Procedures:</b></p> <p>Recommendations for the change of the Statutes and By-laws can be made by the Executive Committee, the Board, the Council and by Member Societies and must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least six months before the meeting of the next Ordinary General Assembly.</p> <p>If there is an urgent need to change the Statutes and By-Laws between Ordinary General Assemblies then recommendations must be submitted to the Executive Committee for discussion before they are circulated to all Member Societies and the Executive Committee may decide to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly.</p> <p>The Statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote taken in the General Assembly and the By-laws by an absolute simple majority vote , in accordance with Article 20 and 21.</p> <p>Amendments of the Statutes and By-Laws on elections shall not affect any already ongoing electoral process.</p> <p>Amendments of the Manual of Procedures are decided by the Executive Committee.</p>	

**Section XIV - DISSOLUTION OF THE WPA AS AN ASSOCIATION**

**Article 50 - Dissolution**

The dissolution of the WPA as an Association will be decided by the General Assembly in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 at the request of the Executive Committee, or at the request of more than one half of the Member Societies.

**Article 51 - Liquidation and distribution of net assets**

Three members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as liquidators.

Any 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 not-for-profit juridical body whose purposes are similar to those of the WPA. In no case shall these assets be paid to any of its Member Societies or organs, nor shall they be used to their profit in any manner.

**PART B**

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR PSYCHIATRY**

Background

This Code of Ethics is intended to guide the ethical practice of psychiatry by offering a comprehensive approach to the ethical challenges in the profession. The WPA recognizes that psychiatric ethics are part of the ethics of the medical profession as a whole, with additional considerations specific to the practice of psychiatry, and bases this Code on its belief in the universality of ethical principles for the practice of psychiatry.

Previous efforts by WPA to outline the principles of ethical behaviour for psychiatrists began with the adoption of the Declaration of Hawaii (1977 and 1983), and continued with the Declaration of Athens (1989), the Declaration of Madrid (1996)

(most recently amended in 2005 and 2014), the Declaration of Craiova (2004) and Cairo (2006). Those Declarations are important adjuncts to the Code of Ethics. It must be recognized that as cultures and societies change, psychiatric ethics need to develop and change accordingly.

The WPA views this Code as a living document that reflects current knowledge, and anticipates that it will be revised over time as knowledge about mental health and psychiatric disorders increases and the nature of psychiatric care evolves to reflect these new understandings.

Many Member Societies of the WPA will have their own codes of ethics that are binding on their members. Member Societies are asked to endorse the five principles embodied in this WPA Code and to confirm that their codes are not in conflict with them. Each endorsed principle is enumerated in bold below. The principles are followed by numbered annotations. Those Member Societies that are developing or revising their codes are encouraged to consider this Code as guidance in that process.

### Introduction

Psychiatry is the medical specialty that works with other medical specialties and with other mental health disciplines in the interest of preventing mental disorders, diagnosing and treating people with such disorders, rehabilitating them, managing psychological aspects of non-psychiatric illnesses and promoting mental health. It also collaborates with families, carers, NGOs and the general public in improving mental health.

### Sections

The Code addresses the behaviour of psychiatrists in their professional roles and not in their roles as citizens, while acknowledging that the border between these roles is often unclear and that at times conflicts can arise. Advocacy for patients can occur at both professional and personal levels. WPA recognizes that a code in itself is insufficient to guide ethical practice. Psychiatrists need to

develop the skills required to recognize ethical dilemmas in their clinical work and seek appropriate specialist ethics input when necessary to help them to resolve these dilemmas. Training for ethics should start at undergraduate level, be explicitly addressed during training and continue throughout life.

The Code is organized into four sections, dealing respectively with the clinical practice of psychiatry, psychiatric education, psychiatric research and the participation of psychiatrists in the promotion of public health and public mental health. Within each section, the Code identifies the operative ethical principles and describes major applications.

I. Ethics in the Clinical Practice of Psychiatry

The work of psychiatrists in the clinical realm is based on five overarching principles: 1) beneficence, 2) respect for patients (autonomy), 3) non-maleficence, 4) improving standards of mental health care and psychiatric practice and 5) applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society (including seeking equity in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of psychiatric disorders). Complex ethical dilemmas may arise when these ethical principles come into conflict with one another, at which point consultation with experienced colleagues or ethics committees may be helpful.

Principle 1: Beneficence

1. Psychiatrists provide competent and compassionate medical care with devotion to the interests of their patients. This Code uses the term “patients” to refer to people who receive treatment for psychiatric disorders, recognizing that other terms may be preferred by various groups.

2. Psychiatrists recognize that their primary obligation in the clinical setting is to pursue the wellbeing of their patients, in light of the best available evidence and clinical experience.

3. Psychiatrists are sensitive to the needs of patients' families, carers and others who are affected by patients' disorders. They provide education and support to these groups, empowering them to assist patients in coping with their disorders and achieving their personal goals. Psychiatrists recognize that optimal clinical care is rendered through collaboration among patients, carers and clinicians, along with other team members and they work to resolve differences and encourage cooperation among them.

4. When appropriate, psychiatrists seek consultation from or refer patients for diagnostic and treatment procedures for which they lack training or experience to practitioners with expertise in these areas.

5. Psychiatrists advocate for patients' interests in the receipt of appropriate psychiatric care and for respect of human rights, including reproductive rights.

6. Recognizing that providing appropriate care for patients requires up-to-date knowledge of relevant research and treatment approaches, psychiatrists should regularly update and improve their clinical skills and strive to remain current with other developments in the field that are directly related to their patients' care. Psychiatrists recognise the importance of evidence, along with clinical experience and respect for patients' values in their daily practice.

Principle 2: Respect for patient's autonomy

1. Psychiatrists are especially mindful of respect for autonomy given their statutory role in treating a proportion of their patients compulsorily. Compulsory treatment may be justified where a less restrictive intervention cannot achieve safe and adequate care; its purpose is ultimately to promote and re-establish patients' autonomy and welfare.

2. Psychiatrists build relationships with patients that are based on mutual trust, acknowledging patients' role as partners in the process of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

These must take into account all local regulatory matters.

3. Psychiatrists seek the informed consent of their patients whenever possible. However, they recognize that the nature of psychiatric disorders will require exceptions, including when patients are unable to make informed decisions about treatment, when considerations of patients' health.

4. Safety, or public safety, call for non-consensual interventions, or when patients do not have the capacity to consent. When family members or guardians have authority to make decisions on.

5. On Patients' behalf, psychiatrists engage them in the process of obtaining informed consent within the local frameworks of confidentiality. Psychiatrists acknowledge that competent patients have the right to make autonomous choices, including the decision to stop treatment. In such situations, psychiatrists make patients aware of the potential consequences of their decisions. Patient autonomy must be borne in mind bearing cultural constraints. Psychiatrists will avoid coercing patients regarding their decisions about medical interventions as much as possible.

6. In pursuing informed consent, psychiatrists should offer patients accurate information about their diagnoses, proposed treatments, risks, potential benefits and alternatives. In their discussions, they take into account patients' abilities to comprehend and appreciate the information, with the goal of facilitating patients' optimal participation in treatment decision making.

7. Even when patients lack competence to make treatment decisions as a result of psychiatric disorders, psychiatrists nonetheless keep them appropriately informed about their treatment and convey respect for their views. Psychiatrists recognize that when patients regain competence, they can reassume their role as full partners in their psychiatric care.

8. Psychiatrists keep in confidence information concerning their patients. They inform patients at the inception of treatment of relevant limitations on confidentiality of communicated information. Except in emergencies, including an imminent threat to harm other people, or under proper legal compulsion, they do not release information regarding patients without patients' consent. Even when patients' consent has been obtained, psychiatrists release only that information necessary for the purpose at hand. When responding to questions from family members and other carers, they provide education about psychiatric disorders and treatments in general, but do not discuss patients' conditions and treatments unless they have patients' consent to do so.

9. Psychiatrists oppose all forms of discrimination against persons with psychiatric disorders and avoid behaviours that might promote discrimination.

Principle 3: Non-maleficence

1. Psychiatrists avoid actions that may be injurious to their patients.

2. Psychiatrists avoid harm to patients by careful evaluation, prescription, and monitoring of the effects of treatment.

3. Psychiatrists avoid use of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions prior to the availability of appropriate evidence demonstrating their favourable benefit/risk ratios for patients.

4. Psychiatrists respect the boundaries of the clinical relationship. They abstain from sexual relationships with their patients and with patients' family members and avoid exploiting patients to meet their own or others' financial, social, emotional and other needs.

5. Psychiatrists pay special attention to the probity of their behaviour when dealing with vulnerable children and adults. They declare all potential or real conflicts of interest.

	<p>6. To avoid subsequent misunderstandings, psychiatrists reach agreement with patients in advance on the nature and scope of the services they are able to provide.</p> <p>7. Psychiatrists abide by local norms in presenting themselves to the public and are careful not to misrepresent their qualifications and experience.</p> <p>8. Psychiatrists avoid engaging in relationships with third parties, including but not limited to the pharmaceutical industry, that may compromise their primary focus on the interests of their patients. Relevant financial relationships should always be disclosed.</p> <p>9. Psychiatrists avoid endorsing patients' requests for implementing termination of life-sustaining treatment or physician-assisted death, when they recognize that underlying psychopathology drives those requests.</p> <p>10. Psychiatrists do not engage in abuse of their patients and promptly report to the appropriate authorities, instances of abuse that come to their attention.</p> <p>11. Psychiatrists do not participate in the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes or in torture, and do not participate or assist in any way in the interrogation of persons deprived of liberty by military or civilian investigative agencies or law enforcement authorities. They may, however, participate in forensic evaluations or other interactions with a detainee that have been appropriately authorized by a court or counsel for the detainee.</p> <p>12. Psychiatrists respect patients' culture, ethnicity, language and religion. They do not discriminate against patients on any grounds, including age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, language, religious or political affiliation, or socio-economic status; neither do they attempt to impose their own values on patients and patients' families.</p>
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13. Psychiatrists should oppose requests to detect and/or report on the presence of anti-government ideas or radicalization of their patients in religious or political matters.

14. As physicians who are committed to sustaining and improving people's lives, psychiatrists do not participate in the administration of the death penalty.

Principle 4: Improving standards of mental health care and psychiatric practice

Psychiatrists recognize a responsibility to promote the continuing development of their profession and their personal professional development.

1. Psychiatrists maintain collegial, professional relationships, based on mutual respect, with their colleagues in psychiatry, general medicine and other mental health professions. However, when collegiality and patients' interests, conflict, fidelity to patients' interests takes primacy.

2. Psychiatrists practice within accepted standards of care. They take appropriate action when they become aware that psychiatric interventions are being used outside accepted standards of care, when necessary reporting the situation to professional societies or other appropriate authorities.

3. Psychiatrists behave in ways that enhance public trust in the profession.

Principle 5: Applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society

1. Psychiatrists, like other physicians, utilize their specialized knowledge and skills to promote mental health and the wellbeing of persons who may be vulnerable to mental illness.

2. Psychiatrists advocate for the interests of people with mental disorders and contribute to the improvement of public health.

3. Psychiatrists provide expert opinions for third parties consistent with ethical principles appropriate to that situation, including respect for persons, truthfulness, and the avoidance of unnecessary harm. In particular, when conducting evaluations on behalf of third parties, they are careful to inform individuals of the purpose of the evaluation, and disclose the party for whom the psychiatrist is working, the absence of a therapeutic relationship, and the limits on confidentiality of communicated information. When access to relevant records is not available, they are careful to note the limitations to their conclusions.

4. Psychiatrists offer accurate information to the media to educate the public about the nature and consequences of psychiatric disorders and their treatment and to dispel misconceptions about people with psychiatric disorders.

5. Psychiatrists do not succumb to pressure to use their professional expertise to facilitate harmful activities, such as torture.

## II. Ethics in Psychiatric Education

Psychiatrists often have roles as teachers, educators and mentors in their discipline. In their educational activities, psychiatrists recognize that the principles of beneficence, respect for patients, improving standards of psychiatric practice, and applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society are intertwined. They communicate the importance of promoting equity in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of psychiatric disorders.

1. Psychiatrists recognize an obligation to share their knowledge of biological, psychological and social determinants of mental health; of psychiatric diagnosis, treatment, and prevention; and of systems of mental health care with trainees and practitioners in psychiatry, other medical specialties, other mental health professions, and the general public. They fulfil this responsibility in

a professional manner that reflects up-to-date, evidence-based knowledge of the field.

2. Acknowledging the vulnerable position of students and trainees and the trust that they place in their teachers, psychiatrists avoid exploitation in their educational roles, e.g., they do not take credit for work done by students and trainees, appropriately balance education and requirements for service, and do not abuse their relationship with their students and trainees in any way.

3. Psychiatrists show respect for patients and carers who are involved in teaching by protecting their dignity and guarding their privacy.

4. Patients should be informed when students or trainees will be involved in their treatment. Psychiatrists obtain patients' consent before presenting them to professionals who are not involved in their care, or in publications in ways that would render them recognizable.

5. Psychiatrists are sensitive to and respectful of cultural factors in teaching settings and avoid expressions of bias.

6. Psychiatrists are conscious of their position as role models for trainees and shape their behaviour accordingly. When differences of opinion are expressed, psychiatrists share their views in a respectful and professional manner.

7. Since medical education is a powerful tool that delivers influential messages to current and future doctors and other professionals, psychiatrists are aware of the potential for conflicts of interest to affect their teaching and training. These conflicts too should be declared.

### III. Ethical Principles in Psychiatric Research and Publication

In their roles as researchers and authors, psychiatrists give particular emphasis to the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and respect for patients, equity, and applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Psychiatrists recognize that research and publication are vital in improving care for current and future patients and improving the health of the population as a whole. Hence, they acknowledge their responsibility to help advance knowledge about the nature of psychiatric disorders, including risk and protective factors, and their treatment. Not all psychiatrists will be interested in or carry out research but everyone should be able to understand, interpret and apply research findings, when appropriate, in a manner consistent with psychiatric ethics.</li><li>2. To ensure that research involving human participants is conducted in an ethically appropriate manner, psychiatrists engaged in research obtain prospective approval from research ethics committees that are independent of the research team. In the unlikely event that local or national research ethics committees are not available, they seek input from appropriate groups outside their country.</li><li>3. In collaboration with the designated research ethics committee, psychiatric researchers select subject populations with attention to the equitable distribution of the benefits and risks of research, and develop approaches that protect subjects from undue risks or discomfort, recognizing that risks must be proportionate to the benefits likely to result from the research. Local research ethics must be followed.</li><li>4. Recognizing that research that is unlikely to yield valid results is inherently unethical, psychiatrists ascertain that the research they are proposing incorporates an appropriate research design that is likely to yield meaningful data. They undertake only research that is within the scope of their competence and resources, and ensure that other members of their research team are appropriately trained for their tasks. When reporting their studies, psychiatrists ensure accurate reporting of their methods and results.</li><li>5. Psychiatrists provide for appropriate informed consent procedures. This includes ensuring that research subjects are enrolled</li></ol>
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voluntarily, without undue pressure or influence, including by the treating psychiatrist. When subjects' capacity is impaired, psychiatrists arrange for appropriate substituted decision making.

6. To protect the privacy of research subjects, psychiatrists take appropriate measures to ensure the security of their data and, when possible, keep identifiers separate from research data. In publications reporting the results of their research, psychiatrists ensure that individual subjects are not identifiable.

7. Psychiatrists present the results of their research fairly, calling attention to both positive and negative results, and focusing both on the potential value of their findings and the limitations of the conclusions that can be drawn from their data.

8. When publishing the results of their research, psychiatrists disclose the sources of their funding and other potential sources of bias; ensure that all those persons who contributed to the study are recognized appropriately in the publications, including with co-authorships and acknowledgments; and seek a consensus of the authors regarding the presentation of the findings.

9. Psychiatrists are aware of the potential that relationships with pharmaceutical and device industries and other interested entities may compromise the integrity of their research designs, analyses, and reporting of results. Hence, they avoid relationships that would compromise their research and publications, disclose relationships that may constitute conflicts of interest, and take measures to prevent distortion of their data.

#### IV. Ethical Principles in Public Mental Health

The promotion of public mental health calls into play the principles of beneficence, equity (reflected in the promotion of distributive justice), and applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society.

1. Psychiatrists support and participate in public education aimed at the promotion of mental health and the prevention of psychiatric disorders to the extent of their abilities.
2. Given that signs and symptoms of psychiatric disorders often appear early in life, and the importance of early detection and intervention, psychiatrists encourage public awareness of the manifestations of psychiatric disorders.
3. In their commitment to advancing mental health, psychiatrists promote distributive justice, including equitable allocation of resources for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of psychiatric disorders. Psychiatrists advocate in particular for support for mental health programs, especially in but not limited to developing countries and in areas where care for persons with psychiatric disorders is non-existent or rudimentary.
4. Psychiatrists pay particular attention to the importance of preventing the development of psychiatric disorders in vulnerable groups, and recognize the increased risk for psychiatric disorders associated with heightened stress and psychological trauma.
5. Recognizing that many persons with psychiatric disorders can benefit from active engagement in rehabilitative services, psychiatrists promote the development and availability of such services.
6. Psychiatrists take every opportunity to combat the stigma of psychiatric disorders in the practice of their profession, and participate in public health activities that target the stigma of psychiatric disorders to the extent of their abilities to do so.
7. Psychiatrists are aware of the deleterious consequences of family violence, emotional and sexual abuse on mental health and well-being, especially for women and children, and they work to minimize the occurrence of violence within families.

8. Psychiatrists avoid taking part in governmental, societal, or personal activities that are aimed at discriminating against an ethnic, racial, religious, sexual, or other group.

10. Recognizing that undiagnosed and untreated psychiatric disorders increase the morbidity and mortality of physical illness and impairment, as well as increasing the cost of its treatment, psychiatrists advocate for identification of psychiatric disorders at all levels of general medical or surgical care (primary, secondary and tertiary), and for appropriate intervention to address psychiatric co-morbidities. Psychiatrists are also alert to medical co-morbidities, implement the necessary diagnostic process and/or refer the patient to the appropriate specialist.

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER SOCIETIES**

Background

This Code of Ethics for WPA Member Societies is intended to supplement the WPA Code of Ethics for Psychiatry, which was adopted by the Association in 2020. In contrast to the earlier document, which provided guidance for the ethical practice of psychiatry, this Code offers a comprehensive approach to the ethical challenges faced by WPA Member Societies around the world. The WPA recognizes that the ethics of the work of psychiatric societies are similar to the ethics governing medical societies in general and bases this Code on its belief in the universality of the relevant ethical principles. We also recognize that as cultures and societies change, the provisions of this Code will need to be re-evaluated and updated accordingly.

Member Societies of the WPA may have their own codes of ethics that address the behaviour of their organizations. Member Societies are asked to endorse the five principles embodied in this WPA Code and to confirm that their codes are not in

conflict with them. Those Member Societies that are developing or revising their codes are encouraged to consider this Code as guidance in that process.

### Introduction

Like their members, psychiatric associations are committed to the five overarching principles highlighted in the WPA Code of Ethics: 1) Beneficence, 2) Respect for patients' autonomy, 3) Non-maleficence, 4) Improving standards of mental health care and psychiatric practice, and 5) Applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society. They seek means of facilitating their members' abilities to adhere to these principles and promote these principles as a basis for national and international policy.

### Sections

The Code addresses the actions of psychiatric societies as representatives of the psychiatric profession. WPA recognizes that a code in itself is insufficient to guide ethical behaviour by Member Societies. Society leadership needs to develop the skills required to recognize ethical dilemmas in their work and seek appropriate specialist ethics input when necessary to help them to resolve these dilemmas. The Code is organized into five sections, dealing respectively with the ethical principles listed above. Within each section, the Code identifies and operationalizes the ethical principle and describes its major applications.

### **Principle 1: Beneficence**

**Psychiatric associations promote psychiatrists' ability to provide competent and compassionate care with commitment to the interests of their patients.**

1. Psychiatric associations work to ensure appropriate levels of training and knowledge in the field of psychiatry. In this role, they facilitate the development of psychiatric training curricula

and syllabi, and maintain links with local training centres, certification boards, and governmental health agencies. They are aware of and promote WPA medical undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum recommendations to ensure adequate levels of training.

2. Psychiatric associations work to promote the quality of psychiatric care offered by their members and offer updated information on advances in the understanding and treatment of psychiatric disorders, and on innovations in technology and assessment. They create systems for continuing medical education (CME), publish journals and newsletters that feature current scientific and clinical information, and encourage members' involvement in research and the development of new knowledge.

3. Psychiatric associations recognize that their members have an important role to play in teaching others about psychiatry, psychiatric disorders, and therapeutic interventions; they produce appropriate materials to support these efforts and encourage evaluation of teaching programmes.

**Principle 2: Respect for patients' autonomy:**

**Psychiatric associations encourage their members to convey their respect for the autonomy and dignity of their patients through their action and demeanour and promote activities that further such respect.**

1. Psychiatric associations support international and national initiatives to protect the human rights of persons with mental disorders; to promote the meaningful involvement of these persons in the planning and implementation of mental health services; to encourage the development of person-centred practice in psychiatry and general medicine; and to promote equity in access to mental health services for persons of different ages, genders, sexual orientation, disability, races/ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, political and religious or other beliefs.

2. Psychiatric associations collaborate with patients' organizations, carers' organizations, and other community groups to lobby governments and third-party payers for better funding of services, improved community education, and efforts to reduce stigma and address inequalities and discrimination.

3. Psychiatric associations and the international psychiatric community enhance patient and carer empowerment by supporting their engagement including, as appropriate, the development of self-help groups, patient and carer participation in service planning and management boards, employment of people with mental health disabilities in mental health service provision when appropriate, patient-run community centres and psychosocial clubhouses, patient and carer speakers' bureaus, and local anti-stigma programs.

**Principle 3: Non-maleficence**

**Psychiatric associations develop, promote and implement policies that assist psychiatrists in avoiding actions that may be injurious to their patients.**

1. To protect psychiatrists' and psychiatric associations' fidelity to patients, research subjects, and trainees, and to avoid the possibility that financial and other benefits may negatively affect these duties, psychiatric associations develop policies and guidelines on relationships with funding sources, including pharmaceutical and other industries. These policies and guidelines reflect WPA recommendations on this issue.

2. Associations recognize a duty to monitor public policies and legislation to identify those that may have detrimental effects on mental health, psychiatric care, social services, or community support. They undertake appropriate advocacy and other actions to ensure that these services do not fall below acceptable standards.

**Principle 4: Improving standards of mental health care and psychiatric practice:**

**Psychiatric associations recognize a responsibility to promote the integrity and continued improvement of psychiatry.**

1. Psychiatric associations promote the right of psychiatrists to practice their specialty at the highest level of excellence by working to protect the conditions under which psychiatric care is provided, empowering psychiatrists to meet the legitimate expectations of the public.

2. Recognizing the history of the abuse of psychiatry and psychiatrists for political and economic ends, psychiatric associations are vigilant to detect and combat such pressures as they emerge. These include pressures on psychiatrists to provide inaccurate psychiatric reports or inappropriate treatments that advance other interests but damage the interests of the patient or person being assessed. National associations should support their members in fighting such abuses and seek assistance, when appropriate, from the WPA.

3. Psychiatric associations are sensitive to the reality that psychiatrists share the stigma that often affects their patients and, similarly, can become victims of discriminatory practices or political persecution. They work to protect the right of psychiatrists to practice their profession and to advocate for the medical needs and social and political rights of their patients.

4. To promote ethical behaviour among their members, psychiatric associations establish committees to address ethics issues. The committees develop national codes of ethics based on the principles embodied in the WPA Code of Ethics for Psychiatrists, and issue guidance for their members with regard to activities that are ethically questionable or inappropriate. Committees also develop procedures for investigation of complaints against members for unethical behaviour, including incompetent practice. These committees coordinate their activities with the ethics committees of the local general medical associations to ensure alignment with national guidelines.

5. Psychiatric associations offer legal and moral protection to their members when they are subject to governmental or other pressure to engage in ethically problematic activities.

6. Psychiatric associations recognize that their governance should be based on democratic principles. They protect the involvement of members with diverse views and promote the expression of varying perspectives. Toward this end, equitable procedures are developed to ensure creation of representative bodies to govern the associations, with regular elections. Officers of associations serve a fixed number of terms. Election procedures are democratic and transparent.

**Principle 5: Applying psychiatric expertise to the service of society:**

**Psychiatric associations recognize a primary responsibility to utilize their specialized knowledge and skills to promote the well-being of society.**

1. Psychiatric associations disseminate and interpret for the lay public relevant scientific knowledge and responsible professional opinions.

2. Psychiatric associations assertively seek involvement in national and international bodies and forums dealing with patients' rights; mental health facilities, budgets, and other services; and availability of appropriate treatments, including pharmacological, psychological, and other treatments. The goal of this representation is to protect patients' rights and quality of life.

3. Psychiatric associations encourage the development of research on the causes and consequences of social problems affecting mental health. These include violence, and especially, domestic violence, abuse of children, racism and discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, ethnicity and culture, poverty, oppression of women, trauma, the impact of natural disasters, and others. They support the application of research findings, including development of preventive interventions, such as training programs on responding to victims of

	<p>these situations, to prevent adverse psychiatric sequelae.</p> <p>4. Because of the impact of war and violence on psychiatric morbidity, psychiatric associations create or facilitate special programs on mental health aspects of violence, including mass violence, and collaborate with governmental and other agencies in its prevention and the alleviation of its consequences. They ensure that scientific knowledge from psychiatry, neuroscience, and the behavioural sciences is used in dealing with problems of violence.</p> <p>5. Psychiatric associations contribute to the development and the implementation of special programs on mental health issues emerging during complex humanitarian emergencies, such as natural disasters and pandemics.</p> <p>6. Psychiatric associations support the involvement of their members in working together with other professionals for the betterment of humankind.</p>
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