

Global Young Greens 2017 Congress

Temporary Rules of Procedure

Introduction

The goal of the 2017 congress is to develop a new structure for the Global Young Greens. As this is an important and difficult process, this will be the primary focus on the congress. There will also be time for workshops and discussions about work on a local level as well as on specific topics and training, but the main goal of the congress is to rewrite the statutes and develop structures in order to have a well functioning and active organization from the congress onwards.

We will focus in this document on the procedures of the workshops and plenaries, and the work required to rewrite the statutes of GYG. You can learn more about other topics and workshops from our programme (which will be published on the GYG website as soon as it is finished).

In order to have a successful conference and to use the very limited time we have at the congress, we would like to explain in advance what the congress will look like, and as our [existing statutes](#) are somewhat obtuse, we would like to introduce temporary rules of procedure outlining how the statutes can be effectively implemented. This document outlines the Prep-Team's proposed system, on which we seek the comments of member organisations.

These rules will only be valid for this congress, and do not mean any change of the statutes. The statutes are something we will work on during the conference. The only goal of these rules that we would like to introduce in this document and vote on (following the official statutes of GYG) these rules is to facilitate the process of debating and working at the congress. The only significant changes can be found in section 6 of the plenary voting rules. Rather than having each delegates vote weighted individually based on attendance, a majority of support from different regions as well as the support of overall delegates will be sought on contested votes.

Additionally, the order of the process for electing a new Steering Committee has been amended to reflect the situation of Global Young Greens and the congress. Voting on these temporary rules of procedure will be among the first order of business of the congress

2017 Congress Temporary Rules of Procedure

Our Purpose

To develop an inclusive, effective structure for Global Young Greens, allowing us to achieve our goals and properly represent the international Young Green movement.

Status of these Rules

1. These rules will be presented to the congress for consideration at the opening of the congress
2. These are provisional rules, valid only for the 2017 election. These rules can be superseded by any decision taken by the congress after adoption.
3. The session chair is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the rules of the amendment process
4. The Structures and Procedures Committee of the Young Greens of England and Wales (SPC) will take responsibility for ensuring the fair conduct of the election.

General Procedures

- Duly registered delegates will be able to collect voting cards and relevant documentation from the Global Young Greens desk on arrival at the congress
- Member organisations may submit position papers in advance for inclusion in this documentation at the discretion of the Steering Committee

Statute Amendment Process

Three stages:

- Pre Conference
 - Understanding what Young Greens around the world want from GYG, and developing proposals which reflects that
- Workshop
 - Developing amendments and proposals to change, enhance or expand the statutes, or improving proposals submitted in advance of the congress
- Plenary
 - Making a final decision on the structure of Global Young Greens

The Pre-Conference Process

- October-March 2016: Global Young Greens run a [survey](#) to learn the priorities and concerns of Young Greens around the world [ongoing]
- March 2017: Global Young Greens issues [a call for amendments](#) to the statutes for congress. Amendments to be submitted in writing to info@globalyounggreens.org [ongoing]
- 22 March 2017: Deadline for presubmission of amendments
- 26 March 2017: Global Young Greens publishes presubmitted amendments

Conference Process

Workshop Stage

1. Opening remarks: The chair explains the format of the process, and the purpose of the workshop.
2. Presentation: The results of the survey, the background of GYG (including issues with the current statutes, the statutes of similar organisations), the proposed amendments
3. Group Discussion: The workshop is separated into groups (based on regions) to discuss
 - a. How they feel about the current statutes
 - b. What changes they feel are needed
 - c. The amendments currently proposed
 - d. What amendments they would like to see
4. An individual from each group presents to the workshop the results of their discussion
 - a. The chair writes the major themes on a whiteboard or flipchart
 - b. The room is reorganised into groups based on the the themes that have emerged - participants are encouraged to join the group which will be discussing the subject they have an interest in
 - c. The chair will be responsible for coordinating this, encouraging groups are of roughly equal size, breaking them up and narrowing themes if one becomes too large
5. The groups are tasked with developing amendments based on the ideas that have emerged
6. The working groups present their progress to the room. People from other groups are given an opportunity to ask questions, challenge ideas, and make suggestions
7. The room and groups can be rearranged if:
 - a. New ideas/divergent amendments require different groups
 - b. Individuals would strongly prefer to work on different groups (the chair is responsible to speaking to groups separately to ascertain this)
8. Groups return to developing specific language for amendments
9. Groups present proposed amendments to the room one by one, followed by:
 - a. An opportunity to question the proposer
 - b. An opportunity to suggest small changes

- c. Arguments for and against
- 10. Once discussion is exhausted (at the discretion of chair), all delegates vote on whether the workshop should send the proposal to the plenary to decide upon
 - a. Simple majority of delegates required

Plenary Stage

1. All delegates are presented with copies of the statutes and changes
2. Chair explains format and purpose of session
3. Brief explanation of how we arrived at this stage
4. One by one, proposed amendments are read and proposed to the congress
 - a. Arguments are heard for and against the amendment
 - b. When chair is satisfied full discussion has taken place, a vote on the amendment is called
 - i. Approval requires:
 1. Support of the majority of delegates
 2. Support of a majority of delegates from at least three out of four regions (Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Americas)
 - c. The chair repeats stages a. and b. with each amendment
5. Once all amendments are resolved, there is a final call for arguments for or against approving the new statutes
6. After any discussion, the chair calls a vote on accepting the amended statutes
 - a. Approval requires:
 - i. The support of a majority of all delegates, and
 - ii. The support of a majority of delegates from each of Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Americas
 - b. If the votes is in favour, the new statutes is adopted
 - c. If the vote does not fulfill the above criteria, the workshop stage will reopen the next day with the amended amended statutes

Election of a Steering Committee

Nomination

1. Global Young Greens will issue a call for nominations in advance of the congress
2. Nominations to serve on the Steering Committee must be submitted to info@globalyounggreens.org 10.30 AM BST (UTC+1) on Saturday 1 April.
3. Only Young Greens are eligible to be nominated to the Steering Committee.
 - a. Young Greens is defined here according to the statutes of Global Young Greens

Campaigning

1. At the regional meetings on Thursday 29 March, participants will be informed of the nomination process and invited to stand for election
2. On Saturday 1 April, Hustings will be held. Candidates will answer questions from the assembled Young Greens
 - a. All duly nominated candidates will be entitled to participate

Conduct of the Ballot

1. All registered delegates will be entitled to vote
2. Unless the otherwise specified by the congress, the election will be held under Single Transferable Vote, with the provision for negative voting
3. The ballot will open at 14:00 on Saturday 1 April
4. The ballot will close at 10:00 on Sunday 2 April
5. The congress organisers will produce ballot papers listing the names of the candidates by region
6. Delegates will be able to collect their ballot paper at the Young Greens stall on production of their voting card
7. On issuance, the ballot paper will be marked to indicate which region the delegate is representing
8. Delegates will elect Steering Committee members to represent their own region only
9. The ballot will be conducted in secret
10. The count will be conducted by the SPC
 - a. Young Greens will be allowed to observe the count where reasonably possible
11. The elected Steering Committee will be announced at the closing session of the Global Young Greens congress by the chair of SPC