

1 **Organisational Principles of the Global Young Greens**

2 (as adopted in Nairobi 2007 and amended in Berlin 2010)

3 4 **1. Name**

5 Global Young Greens Network (in short, GYG network or simply GYG).

6 7 **2. Definition**

8 The GYG is a worldwide non-profit network of young green activists and
9 organisations committed to the GYG objectives and the GYG statement of principles,
10 loosely affiliated to the Global Greens and endorsing the Global Greens Charter (see
11 annex).

12 13 **3. Membership**

14 Every young person of the age of 35 and under or any youth organisation or political
15 youth wing (Member Organisation) defining itself as “Green” and which obeys the
16 Principles laid out in the Global Greens Charter is invited to join the network and
17 participate in its activities.

18
19 Members of the network must not act against the spirit of the Global Green Charter,
20 the Principles of GYG and they must try to cooperate with other GYG and Global
21 Green members. Neither GYG logo nor name can be used for electoral competition
22 or any other activity against any other GYG and Global Green members.

23
24 Member Organisations must clearly define themselves as a youth organisation.
25 Individuals and delegates of Member Organisations who wish to be involved in any
26 decision-making processes during the Congress must have formally completed the
27 application process at least 24 hours before the commencement of the Congress.
28 The network, its facilities and activities are open to everybody, unless excluded from
29 participation by the Congress on recommendation and in consultation with the
30 relevant regions.

31
32 The Steering Committee decides on requests for new membership and carries out an
33 audit of all Member Organisations between Congresses. New members have voting
34 rights at the next congress after being confirmed as members by that same congress.
35 Individuals and Member Organisations’ membership and participation can be
36 temporarily suspended until the next GYG Congress if the Steering Committee
37 decides they have acted against the letters or spirit of the GYG. The final decision
38 will be taken by the Congress.

39
40 Members can only represent GYG by using GYG material on behalf of the network.
41 Members must not make political statements on behalf of GYG unless the statement
42 has been previously agreed by Congress.

43 44 **4. Organisational Structure**

45 The GYG aims to keep its structure flexible and open to changes. Activists and
46 members are invited to expand and adapt the network according to their needs and
47 in conformity with the principles of the GYG. Project and issue-based leadership and
48 campaigning are given priority. The formal structures of the GYG network have
49 mainly two tasks: ensuring overall coherence, coordination and guidance, and
50 provide backup when other grassroots structures fail to work and acting as the global
51 organisation.

52
53 The GYG network is based on two main pillars:

- 54 • people-to-people contacts

- 55 • a web-based community

56

57 Regular activities in the first pillar can include seminars, exchanges, regional and
58 interregional projects, internships, summer camps, campaigns as well as the
59 statutory meetings and any other useful tools.

60

61 Regular activities in the second pillar can include interaction, discussion, decision-
62 making, common work, lobbying and learning via web-based tools, inter alia email
63 lists, wiki, knowledge and data bases, e-seminars and any other useful tools.

64

65 The Steering Committee and Working Groups shall ensure a regular, well-mannered
66 operating of this pillar. GYG will work towards improving its capacity in supporting all
67 members in their possibility to participate in the web-based community.

68

69 4.1 The Regions

70 The regional federations are the backbone of the GYG. The four regions recognised
71 are Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. When appropriate, the addition of
72 a Middle East region would be desirable for GYG. It is desirable for these regional
73 federations to become the youth wings of their respective Green federations. The
74 specific relationship is up for the regions to decide.

75

76 A new regional federation or a split of existing ones has to be approved by a
77 Congress. Between Congresses, the Steering Committee has to take care of
78 appropriate inclusion. Strong regions have the responsibility to support weaker ones
79 by all possible and desired means. Member Organisations shall support their
80 regional federations. The regions assure the link between the global and the national
81 level. They are the first contact point for interested newcomers and the main
82 implementing mechanism.

83

84 4.2 The Congress

85 The Congress is the highest decision-making body of the GYG. It aims at meeting at
86 least every third year. It is convoked by decision of the Steering Committee. This
87 decision will be communicated and published at least six months in advance of the
88 Congress by the Steering Committee to the GYG members and the public. Every
89 Green activist is invited to join the Congress as an observer. The Congress aims at
90 gender balance.

91

92 The Congress decides in particular about:

93

- 94 • Membership in the network
- 95 • The broad political guidelines and basic documents of the network
- 96 • The appointment and discharge of the Steering Committee
- 97 • The main activities and work programme
- 98 • Common campaigns that carry the GYG logo
- 99 • Restructuring of GYG
- 100 • Congress has to approve GYG previous years balances and future budget

100

101 4.3 The Steering Committee (SC)

102 The Steering Committee is the second highest decision-making body. It steers the
103 network and is financially responsible for the GYG. It takes decisions in between the
104 Congresses in order to carry out the decisions of the Congress.

105

106 The Steering Committee is allowed to issue political statements on behalf of GYG
107 after appropriate consultation with its Individual members via the GYG Email-list,
108 Member Organisations and regional federations. Statements have to follow the spirit

109 of the Global Greens Charter and can only be released after obtaining consensus in
110 the Steering Committee.

111

112 The Steering Committee is responsible for close communicating with the Global
113 Greens and its Secretary. The SC takes financial decisions including the annual
114 budget (January 1st to December 31st) within the framework set by the Congress.
115 The SC is responsible for managing GYG financial obligations, within strict budgets,
116 and with high integrity and accountability. The SC is not authorized to take GYG into
117 debt.

118

119 The SC publishes every year in January a report of its activities and decisions of the
120 last year and a plan of activities for the running year and submits both to discussion
121 by the network. The delegates of each of the regions shall write a report on green
122 events and developments within their respective region every six months and send it
123 to all members as well as the regional federations, the Global Greens and other
124 interested supporters.

125

126 The Steering Committee decides on acceptance and suspension of members. It
127 meets at least once between Congresses. Further meetings and decision-making
128 can take place by other means for instance telephone or video conferences and
129 email.

130

131 The SC can form further bodies in order to carry out specific tasks, such as an
132 organisational committee to carry out administrative tasks or preparation teams for
133 major activities like the Congress or campaigns. The Steering Committee can set up
134 and appoint the board of legal entities for the exclusive purpose of fundraising.

135

136 If a member of the Steering Committee needs to be replaced before the next
137 Congress, the regional federation of the region the person who dropped out is
138 originated in will appoint a replacement. If a member of the Steering Committee is
139 clearly inactive or in any other way disabled to work, the other members of the
140 Steering Committee can in consensus ask the specific regional federation to replace
141 the inactive member in due time.

142

143 The Steering Committee is to be balanced regionally. The Steering Committee
144 should have no more than 4 members from each region.

145

146 Before the Congress, meetings in the Regions should be organised by the respective
147 federations and the Region's SC-members. Each region should attempt to decide by
148 using consensus-making procedures who it supports as their region's respective SC
149 candidate at this regional meeting or the regional meeting at the Congress. The
150 Congress of GYG takes the binding vote on the SC composition, but this vote has to
151 take place after appropriate regional meetings.

152

153 At least 50% of Steering Committee members must be women. This percentage has
154 to come from at least 50% of women candidate from each region. To ensure
155 potential membership, applicants are vetted by certain requirements as accepted by
156 the Congress.

157

158 The Steering Committee will allocate itself roles; including convenor, treasurer,
159 secretary, membership co-ordinator and any other roles as required.

160

161 The steering committee will try to minimize the ecological footprint of Congresses.

162

163

4.4 The Working Groups (WG)

- 164 There are mainly three sorts of WG:
- 165 • Thematic Working Groups (for instance on ecology, fair trade, gender, peace
 - 166 etc.)
 - 167 • Technical Working Groups (for instance web-support, babel pool, fundraising,
 - 168 development of the network)
 - 169 • Ad-hoc (often time-limited) Working Groups (for instance activity-, campaign
 - 170 or issue-centred)

171

172 Every Green activist is invited to found or join a WG. Each WG can decide on a more

173 detailed internal structure and division of tasks. WG can be dissolved or reorganised

174 by decision of the Steering Committee.

175

176 4.5 Organisational principles in GYG

177 GYG aims at consensus decision-making. If a total consensus is impossible, there

178 will be an attempt to form a consensus on decision-making procedure. If also this

179 fails, in a case where it is deemed of extreme importance for the functioning of GYG,

180 decisions will be taken with a two-thirds majority. This applies both during the

181 Congress and within the Steering Committee. If consensus is not achieved, the

182 person or people not in agreement can choose to stand aside. Standing aside means

183 the people do not take part in that decision and are not responsible for the

184 consequences. GYG aims at gender and regional balance in all its bodies and

185 procedures.

186

187 4.6 Allocation of Votes

188 Only registered Individuals and delegates from Member Organisations can vote. One

189 person may not have more than one vote. All Member Organisation can have a

190 maximum of four delegates with one vote each. It is not possible to delegate votes.

191 No region shall have more votes in total than the other regions combined. Of the

192 votes apportioned to each region, a minimum of 2/3 will go to Member Organisations

193 with the remaining going to registered individuals. The calculations will be made at

194 the formal start of the Congress. If a region has no delegates from a Member

195 Organisation, the region will be allocated the same number of Individual votes as the

196 region with the lowest number of allocated Individual votes.

197

198 If there are more registered Individuals in a region than allocated votes, the votes

199 shall be divided proportionally. If there are more delegates of Member Organisations

200 in a region than allocated delegate votes, the votes of Member Organisations of that

201 region shall be divided proportionally.

202

203 **5. Legal Representation of the Network**

204 All documents legally binding the network need to be, except in cases of special

205 mandates, signed by two members of the Steering Committee who do not originate

206 in the same region.

207

208 The Steering Committee acts for the network as plaintiff or defender in legal cases

209 and is represented in them by a member of the Steering Committee.

210

211 **6. Changing the Statutes and Disbanding the Organisation**

212 All proposals for disbanding the network will come from the Steering Committee or

213 20 member organisations of at least 2 regions. The Congress or the Steering

214 Committee in consultation with the regions decides the way in which the network will

215 disband and fulfil its obligations. The assets after the disbanding will be donated to a

216 legal person or entity with similar goals as the disbanded network. The decision to

217 disband the network can only be taken with a four-fifth majority by congress.

218

219 The statutes can be changed by congress with consensus or the same voting
220 methods stated in article 4.6. Proposals for changing the statutes must be published
221 in four languages by the steering committee a minimum of four weeks prior to
222 congress. This excepts amendments made during the congress as the result of
223 discussion.