

Global Young Greens Organisational Principles

As adopted at GYG Congress in Liverpool, March 2017



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1) Glossary

GYG - Global Young Greens

SC - Steering Committee

GG - Global Greens

OC - Oversight Committee

CC - Congress Committee

WG(s) - Working Group(s)

SPWG - Structures and Procedures Working Group

CBWG - Capacity Building Working Group

ERO - Electoral Returns Officer

2) Name, definition and principles of GYG

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

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

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

The GYG network is based on two main pillars:

- people-to-people contacts.
- a web-based community and a database that includes a list of member organizations from each Federation that lists all GYG members within them, as well as individual members

without an organization. Lists are maintained by the SC coordinators and are accessible to all members who have signed a non-disclosure agreement. This information should be updated at least once a year.

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

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

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

GYG aims at consensus decision-making. If a total consensus is impossible, there will be an attempt to form a consensus on decision-making procedure. If also this fails, in a case where it is deemed of extreme importance for the functioning of GYG, decisions will be taken with a two thirds majority. This applies both during the Congress and within the Steering Committee and the Oversight Committee. If consensus is not achieved, the person or people not in agreement can choose to stand aside. Standing aside means those people do not take part in that decision and are not responsible for the consequences. GYG aims at gender and regional balance in all its bodies and procedures.

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

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

3) Membership

All youth organisations whose mother parties are part of the Global Greens can become member organisations of GYG by submitting their written request. All other youth organisations as well as NGOs who want to become a member organisation and who obey the Principles laid out in the Global Greens Charter need to be approved by the SC with an absolute majority. Young Green individuals of the age of 35 and under who obey the Principles laid out in the Global Greens Charter are always welcome to GYG events and to participate the activities. If there is no member organisation in their area of residence, they are invited to join GYG as individual members.

A person who is a member of a GYG Member Organisation cannot become an individual member of the GYG. They have to state a reason (written) to the Steering Committee which will decide upon the request with a majority vote.

Member Organisations must clearly define themselves as a youth organisation.

4) Organisational Structure

a) Regions

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

A new regional federation or a split of existing ones has to be approved by a Congress.

Between Congresses, the Steering Committee has to take care of appropriate inclusion.

Strong regions have the responsibility to support weaker ones by all possible and desired means.

Member Organisations shall support their regional federations. The regions assure the link between the global and the national level. They are the first contact point for interested newcomers and the main implementing mechanism.

b) Congress

The Congress is the highest decision-making body of the GYG. It aims at meeting at least every third year.

It is convoked by decision of the Steering Committee. This decision will be communicated and published at least six months in advance of the Congress by the Steering Committee to the GYG members and the public.

i) Delegation and voting rights

Only individuals from countries without a Member Organisation can obtain the ability to vote without being delegated by a MO. One person may not have more than one vote. Every Member Organisation has one vote, independent from the size of the delegation.

Individuals and delegates of Member Organisations who wish to be involved in any decision-making processes during the Congress must have formally completed the application process at least 24 hours before the commencement of the Congress.

The network, its facilities and activities are open to everybody, unless excluded from participation by the Congress on recommendation and in consultation with the relevant regions.

New members have voting rights at the next congress after being confirmed as members by that same congress. Individuals and Member Organisations' membership and participation can be temporarily suspended until the next GYG Congress if the Steering Committee decides they have acted against the letters or spirit of the GYG. The final decision will be taken by the Congress.

Every Green activist is invited to join the Congress as an observer. The Congress aims at gender balance.

c) Steering Committee (SC)

i) Members, region and gender quotas

The SC consists of 2 persons from each region (at least one person from each region needs to define themselves as a woman, inter or trans person). The positions of the SC are agreed on within the SC after elections and are the following:

- one Secretary
- one Treasurer
- four Regional Coordinators from four regions (each responsible for the region of their main residence)
- one Communication Officer

To ease the task of funding SC meetings there always is a main and a deputy SC member from each region. Who is main and who is not is decided by the SC. The person who is going to an SC meeting will be refunded.

ii) Tasks

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

The Steering Committee is allowed to issue political statements on behalf of GYG after appropriate consultation with its Individual members via the GYG Email-list, Member Organisations and regional federations. Statements have to follow the spirit of the Global Greens Charter and can only be released after obtaining consensus in the Steering Committee.

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

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

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

The SC can form further bodies in order to carry out specific tasks, such as an organisational committee to carry out administrative tasks or preparation teams for major activities like the Congress

or campaigns. The Steering Committee can set up and appoint the board of legal entities for the exclusive purpose of fundraising.

The Steering Committee decides on requests for new membership and carries out an audit of all Member Organisations between Congresses.

Between Congresses, the Steering Committee has to take care of appropriate inclusion [of new regions or splits of existing ones].

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

As part of the wider audit on updating and improving GYG's structures and procedures, the SC is responsible for finding until 2019 a way of safe, accessible and identity-proving online voting and an election process that ensures fair and equal decision making.

iii) Transfer of administrative obligations

The SC may transfer parts of its administrative obligations to one of its regional federations or to the Global Greens. In order to do so, a formal agreement has to be concluded between the SC and the third party. This agreement needs to be communicated to the Member Organisations. The agreement needs to specify the delegated tasks and responsibilities of both parties.

d) Oversight Committee (OC)

There will be a Global Young Greens Oversight Committee, that may be referred to as the GYGOC or OC.

i) Members, region and gender quotas

The membership of the GYGOC shall be composed of:

- One member elected from each region
- One Chairperson

ii) Tasks

GYGOC shall have the following responsibilities:

- Holding the actions of the Steering Committee to account, with consideration of the Organisational Principles and GYG Congress decisions.
- Running Global Young Greens elections as well as overseeing Co-options
- Overseeing the Organisational Principles and amending them for optimisation on the grounds of documentational clarity, which can only be done with the consent of the Steering Committee.

Changes will be reported to each congress.

Congress retains the right to overturn any amendments made by the Oversight Committee.

e) Working groups (WG)

i) Types and tasks

There are mainly three sorts of WG:

- Thematic Working Groups (for instance on ecology, fair trade, gender, peace etc.)
- Technical Working Groups (for instance web-support, babel pool, fundraising, development of the network)
- Ad-hoc (often time-limited) Working Groups (for instance activity-, campaign or issue-centred)

ii) Members, region and gender quotas

Every Green activist is invited to found or join a WG. Each WG can decide on a more detailed internal structure and division of tasks. WG can be dissolved or reorganised by decision of the Steering Committee. A minimum of 5 individuals, with at least 1 from each region, can propose a working group to the Steering Committee communications coordinator in order to facilitate its creation. The activities and projects run by the GYG or in its name through a WG should be gender sensitive and regionally balanced.

5) Election and voting procedures

a) Election of candidates

i) Steering Committee

The Steering Committee's members are elected by the Congress for a 3 year mandate. The regional federations are responsible to elect/appoint the new SC member(s) in due time. If the specific regional federation itself, is not responsive, or cannot be contacted within one month, then the Steering Committee can themselves put out a call for nomination and organise an election within the relevant region.

If a member of the Steering Committee needs to be replaced before the end of the mandate, his/her/their regional federation will organise new elections for the position. If a member of the Steering Committee is clearly inactive for more than 3 months or in no capacity to fulfill their obligations, the other members of the Steering Committee can in consensus ask the specific regional federation to elect a replacement for the inactive member in due time.

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

In the first round of the SC elections, the goal is to have a gender balance in the elected candidates from each region and the SC as a whole.

If there are not enough candidates to create a gender balance in the SC, the goal is to fill all positions. The existing SC is responsible to actively encourage and search for candidates from diverse background, both balanced according to the regions, gender and other factors.

ii) Oversight Committee

Elections of GYGOC members shall be organised by an Electoral Returns Officer (ERO), agreed by both the Steering Committee and the GYGOC. Delegates at GYG Congress will elect their respective regional OC representative. All delegates will vote for the OC Chair.

b) Voting on subjects

i) Changes of the OPs

In order for a vote to pass at congress, it will need:

- a majority among all the delegates, and
- a majority in at least 2 out of the 4 regions individually.

A new regional federation or a split of existing ones has to be approved by a Congress.

ii) Changes of the Statutes

The statutes can be changed by congress with consensus or the same voting methods stated in article 4b(i). Proposals for changing the statutes must be published in four languages by the steering committee a minimum of four weeks prior to congress. This excludes amendments made during the congress as the result of discussion.

iii) Other subjects

In order for a vote to pass on the congress, it will need:

- a majority among all the delegates, and
- a majority in at least 2 out of the 4 regions individually.

The Congress decides in particular about:

- membership in the network

- the broad political guidelines and basic documents of the network
- the appointment and discharge of the Steering Committee
- the main activities and work programme
- common campaigns that carry the GYG logo
- restructuring of GYG
- Congress has to approve GYG previous years balances and future budget

Congress retains the right to overturn any amendments made by the Oversight Committee.

c) Possibilities of election and voting with specific principles

i) Regional meetings at congress or at federal assemblies

ii) Online Voting or Election

To take decisions and to vote for new SC members between congresses, there is the possibility of online voting.

6) Legal representation of the network

All documents legally binding the network need to be, except in cases of special mandates, signed by two members of the Steering Committee who do not originate in the same region.

The Steering Committee acts for the network as plaintiff or defender in legal cases and is represented by a member of the Steering Committee.

7) Disbanding the organisation

All proposals for disbanding the network will come from the Steering Committee or 20 member organisations from at least 2 regions. The Congress or the Steering Committee in consultation with the regions decides the way in which the network will disband and fulfil its obligations. The assets

after the disbanding will be donated to a legal person or entity with similar goals as the disbanded network. The decision to disband the network can only be taken with a four-fifth majority by congress.