

Global Young Greens

Organisational Principles

As adopted at the online GYG congress, January 2022



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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 WorkingGroup

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

110 Member Organisation has one vote, independent from the size of the delegation.

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

114

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

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

123

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

126

127 c) Steering Committee (SC)

128

129 i) Members, region and gender quotas

130 The SC consists of 2 persons from each region (at least one person from each region needs
131 to define themselves as a woman, inter or trans person). All Steering Committee members
132 must be members of a Global Green Member Organisation if it exists in their country of
133 residence. The positions of the SC are agreed on within the SC after elections and are the
134 following:

135 ● one Secretary

136 ● one Treasurer

137 ● four Regional Coordinators from four regions (each responsible for the region

138 of their main residence)

139 • one Communication Officer

140

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

144

145 ii)Tasks

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

149

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

155

156 The Steering Committee is responsible for close communicating with the Global Greens
157 and its Secretary. The SC takes financial decisions including the annual budget (January
158 1st to December 31st) within the framework set by the Congress. The SC is responsible
159 for managing GYG financial obligations, within strict budgets, and with high integrity and
160 accountability. The SC is not authorized to take GYG into debt.

161

162 The SC publishes every year in January a report of its activities and decisions of the last
163 year and a plan of activities for the running year and submits both to discussion by the
164 network. The delegates of each of the regions shall write a report on green events and
165 developments within their respective region every six months and send it to all members

166 as well as the regional federations, the Global Greens and other interested supporters.

167

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

171

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

176

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

179

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

182

183 The Steering Committee will try to minimize the ecological footprint of Congresses.

184

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

188

189 **iii) Transfer of administrative obligations**

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

194 both parties.

195

196 d) Oversight Committee (OC)

197

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

200

201 i) Members, region and gender quotas

202

203 All Oversight Committee members must be members of a Global Green Member Organisation
204 if it exists in their country of residence. The membership of the GYGOC shall be composed
205 of:

- 206 • One member elected from each region
- 207 • One Chairperson

208

209 ii) Tasks

210

211 GYGOC shall have the following responsibilities:

212

- 213 • Holding the actions of the Steering Committee to account, with
214 consideration of the Organisational Principles and GYG Congress
215 decisions.
- 216 • Running Global Young Greens elections as well as overseeing Co-
217 options.
- 218 • Overseeing the Organisational Principles and amending them for
219 optimisation on the grounds of documentary clarity, which can
220 only be done with the consent of the Steering Committee.

221

222 Changes will be reported to each congress.

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

224

225 e) Working groups (WG)

226

227 i) Types and tasks

228

229 There are mainly three sorts of WG:

230

231 • Thematic Working Groups (for instance on ecology, fair trade, gender, peace etc.)

232 • Technical Working Groups (for instance web-support, babel pool, fundraising,
233 development of the network)

234 • Ad-hoc (often time-limited) Working Groups (for instance activity-, campaign or
235 issue-centred)

236

237 ii) Members, region and gender quotas

238

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

245

246 5) Election and voting procedures

247

248 a) Election of candidates

249

250 i) Steering Committee

251 The Steering Committee's members are elected by the Congress for a 3-year mandate. The
252 regional federations are responsible to elect/appoint the new SC member(s) in due time. If
253 the specific regional federation itself, is not responsive, or cannot be contacted within one

254 month, then the Steering Committee can themselves put out a call for nomination and
255 organise an election within the relevant region.

256
257 If a member of the Steering Committee needs to be replaced before the end of the
258 mandate, his/her/their regional federation will organise new elections for the position. If
259 a member of the Steering Committee is clearly inactive for more than 3 months or in no
260 capacity to fulfil their obligations, the other members of the Steering Committee can in
261 consensus ask the specific regional federation to elect a replacement for the inactive
262 member in due time.

263
264 Before the Congress, meetings in the regions should be organised by the respective
265 federations and the region's SC-members. Each region should attempt to decide by using
266 consensus making procedures who it supports as their region's respective SC candidate
267 at this regional meeting or the regional meeting at the Congress. The Congress of GYG
268 takes the binding vote on the SC composition, but this vote has to take place after
269 appropriate regional meetings.

270
271 In the first round of the SC elections, the goal is to have a gender balance in the elected
272 candidates from each region and the SC as a whole.

273
274 If there are not enough candidates to create a gender balance in the SC, the goal is to fill
275 all positions. The existing SC is responsible to actively encourage and search for candidates
276 from diverse background, both balanced according to the regions, gender and other
277 factors.

278
279 **ii) Oversight Committee**
280 Elections of GYGOC members shall be organised by an Electoral Returns Officer (ERO),
281 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.
Should an Oversight Committee member need to be replaced before the end of their
mandate, the Steering Committee can decide to fill the vacancy by means of co-option via
an open call.

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

- 310 • the main activities and work programme
- 311 • common campaigns that carry the GYG logo
- 312 • restructuring of GYG
- 313 • Congress has to approve GYG previous years balances and future budget

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

315

316 c) Possibilities of election and voting with specific principles

317

318 i) Regional meetings at congress or at federal assemblies

319

320 ii) Online Voting or Election

321 To take decisions and to vote for new SC members between congresses, or in the case

322 there is a global or regional situation that does not allow for in-person voting, there is

323 the possibility of online voting.

324

325 6) Legal representation of the network

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

327 signed by two members of the Steering Committee who do not originate in the same

328 region.

329

330 The Steering Committee acts for the network as plaintiff or defender in legal cases and is

331 represented by a member of the Steering Committee.

332

333 7) Disbanding the organisation

334 All proposals for disbanding the network will come from the Steering Committee or 20

335 member organisations from at least 2 regions. The Congress or the Steering Committee

336 in consultation with the regions decides the way in which the network will disband and

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