

# **Global Young Greens**

# **Organizational**

# **Principles**

As adopted at the GYG congress in Incheon, June 2023



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
GREENS**

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# 1) Glossary

2

3 GYG - Global Young Greens

4 SC - Steering Committee

5 GG - Global Greens

6 OC - Oversight Committee

7 CC - Congress Committee

8 WG(s) - Working Group(s)

9 SPWG - Structures and Procedures WorkingGroup

10 CBWG - Capacity Building Working Group

11 ERO - Electoral Returns Officer

## 12 2) Name, definition and principles of GYG

13

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

15

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

19

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

25 structures fail to work and acting as the global organisation.

26

27 The GYG network is based on three main pillars:

- 28 • people-to-people contacts.
- 29 • a web-based community and a database that includes a list of member  
30 organizations from each Federation that lists all GYG members within them, as  
31 well as individual members without an organization. Lists are maintained by  
32 the SC coordinators and are accessible to all members who have signed a non-  
33 disclosure agreement. This information should be updated at least once a year.
- 34 • A political platform

35

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

39

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

43

44 The third pillar consists of a written political platform which contains the fundamental  
45 policies of GYG. It can be updated by Congress via amendments. A complete content  
46 review requires a process led by the SC. If at least two regional federations ask for a  
47 content review, the SC will propose it to the Congress. The SC can also initiate this process  
48 itself.

49

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

54  
55 GYG aims at consensus decision-making. If a total consensus is impossible, there will be  
56 an attempt to form a consensus on decision-making procedure. If also this fails, in a case  
57 where it is deemed of extreme importance for the functioning of GYG, decisions will be  
58 taken with a two thirds majority. This applies both during the Congress and within the  
59 Steering Committee and the Oversight Committee. If consensus is not achieved, the  
60 person or people not in agreement can choose to stand aside.

61  
62 Standing aside means those people do not take part in that decision and are not  
63 responsible for the consequences. GYG aims at gender and regional balance in all its  
64 bodies and procedures.

65  
66 Members of the network must not act against the spirit of the Global Green Charter, the  
67 Principles of GYG and they must try to cooperate with other GYG and Global Green  
68 members. Neither GYG logo nor name can be used for electoral competition or any other  
69 activity against any other GYG and Global Green members.

70  
71 Members can only represent GYG by using GYG material on behalf of the network.  
72 Members must not make political statements on behalf of GYG unless the statement has  
73 been previously agreed by Congress.

74

### 75 3) Membership

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

84

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

88

89 Member Organisations must clearly define themselves as a youth organisation.

### 90 4) Organisational Structure

91

#### 92 a) Regions

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

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

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

100  
101 Strong regions have the responsibility to support weaker ones by all possible and desired  
102 means. Member Organisations shall support their regional federations. The regions  
103 assure the link between the global and the national level. They are the first contact point  
104 for interested newcomers and the main implementing mechanism.

105

## 106 **b) Congress**

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

109

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

113

## 114 **i) Delegation and voting rights**

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

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

121

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

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

130  
131 Every Green activist is invited to join the Congress as an observer. The Congress aims  
132 at gender balance.

133

## 134 c) Steering Committee (SC)

135

### 136 i) Members, regions, and gender quotas

137 The SC consists of a minimum of 2 persons, maximum 4 persons from each region (at least  
138 half of the SC members from each region needs to identify as a woman, inter or trans  
139 person). All Steering Committee members must be members of a Global Green Member  
140 Organization if it exists in their country of residence. The positions of the SC are agreed on  
141 within the SC after elections and are the following:

- 142 ● 2 Co-Spokespeople (also following the gender quota)
- 143 ● 1 Secretary General
- 144 ● 1 Treasurer
- 145 ● 2 Activities Co-Coordiators
- 146 ● 2 Regional Coordinators from each region



147           • 2 Communication Co-Coordiators

148

149 GYG SC to work on setting up a secretariat consisting of two paid positions:

150           • Executive secretary

151           • Volunteer manager

152 To ease the task of funding SC meetings there always is an SC member from each region.

153

## 154    ii)Tasks

155 The Steering Committee is the second highest decision-making body. It steers the network

156 and is financially responsible for the GYG. It takes decisions in between the Congresses in

157 order to carry out the decisions of the Congress.

158

159 The Steering Committee is allowed to issue political statements on behalf of GYG after

160 appropriate consultation with its Individual members via the GYG Email-list, Member

161 Organizations and regional federations. Statements have to follow the spirit of the Global

162 Greens Charter and can only be released after obtaining consensus in the Steering

163 Committee.

164

165 The Steering Committee is responsible for close communication with the Global Greens

166 and its Secretary. The SC takes financial decisions including the annual budget (January

167 1st to December 31st) within the framework set by the Congress. The SC is responsible

168 for managing GYG financial obligations, within strict budgets, and with high integrity and

169 accountability. The SC is not authorized to take GYG into debt.

170

171 The SC publishes every year in January a report of its activities and decisions of the last

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

176  
177 The Steering Committee decides on acceptance and suspension of members. It meets at  
178 least once between Congresses. Further meetings and decision-making can take place by  
179 other means for instance telephone or video conferences and email.

180  
181 The SC can form further bodies in order to carry out specific tasks, such as an  
182 organisational committee to carry out administrative tasks or preparation teams for major  
183 activities like the Congress or campaigns. The Steering Committee can set up and appoint  
184 the board of legal entities for the exclusive purpose of fundraising.

185  
186 The Steering Committee decides on requests for new membership and carries out an  
187 audit of all Member Organisations between Congresses.

188  
189 Between Congresses, the Steering Committee has to take care of appropriate  
190 inclusion [of new regions or splits of existing ones].

191  
192 The Steering Committee will try to minimize the ecological footprint of Congresses.

193  
194 As part of the wider audit on updating and improving GYG's structures and procedures,  
195 the SC is responsible for finding until 2019 a way of safe, accessible, and identity-proving  
196 online voting and an election process that ensures fair and equal decision making.

197

198     **iii) Transfer of administrative obligations**

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

204     **d) Oversight Committee (OC)**

205

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

208

209     **i) Members, region and gender quotas**

210

211     All Oversight Committee members must be members of a Global Green Member  
212     Organization if it exists in their country of residence. The membership of the GYGOC shall be  
213     composed of:

- 214             • One member elected from each region.

215

216     **ii) Tasks**

217

218     GYGOC shall have the following responsibilities:

219

- 220             • Holding the actions of the Steering Committee to account, with  
221                 consideration of the Organisational Principles and GYG Congress  
222                 decisions.

- 223           • Running Global Young Greens elections as well as overseeing Co-  
224           options.
- 225           • Overseeing the Organisational Principles and amending them for  
226           optimisation on the grounds of documentational clarity, which can  
227           only be done with the consent of the Steering Committee.
- 228
- 229 Changes will be reported to each congress.
- 230 Congress retains the right to overturn any amendments made by the Oversight Committee.
- 231

## 232    **e) Working groups (WG)**

233

### 234    **i)    Types and tasks**

235

236 There are mainly three sorts of WG:

237

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

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

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

243

### 244    **ii)   Members, region and gender quotas**

245

246 Every Green activist is invited to found or join a WG. Each WG can decide on a more detailed  
247 internal structure and division of tasks. WG can be dissolved or reorganised by decision of  
248 the Steering Committee. A minimum of 5 individuals, with at least 1 from each region, can  
249 propose a working group to the Steering Committee communications coordinator in order

250 to facilitate its creation. The activities and projects run by the GYG or in its name through  
251 a WG should be gender sensitive and regionally balanced.

252

## 253 5) Election and voting procedures

254

### 255 a) Election of candidates

256

#### 257 i) Steering Committee

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

263

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

270

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

276 appropriate regional meetings.

277

278 In the first round of the SC elections, the goal is to have a gender balance in the elected

279 candidates from each region and the SC as a whole.

280

281 If there are not enough candidates to create a gender balance in the SC, the goal is to fill

282 all positions. The existing SC is responsible to actively encourage and search for candidates

283 from diverse background, both balanced according to the regions, gender and other

284 factors.

285

## 286 ii) Oversight Committee

287 Elections of GYGOC members shall be organised by an Electoral Returns Officer (ERO),

288 agreed by both the Steering Committee and the GYGOC. Delegates at GYG Congress will

289 elect their respective regional OC representative. Should an Oversight Committee member

290 need to be replaced before the end of their mandate, the Steering Committee can decide

291 to fill the vacancy by means of co-option via an open call.

292

## 293 b) Voting on subjects

294

### 295 i) Changes of the OPs

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

297 • a majority among all the delegates, and

298 • a majority in at least 2 out of the 4 regions individually.

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

300

301 ii) Changes of the Statutes

302  
303 The statutes can be changed by congress with consensus or the same voting methods  
304 stated in article 4b(i). Proposals for changing the statutes must be published in four  
305 languages by the steering committee a minimum of four weeks prior to congress. This  
306 excludes amendments made during the congress as the result of discussion.

307

308 iii) Other subjects

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

- 310
- a majority among all the delegates, and
- 311
- a majority in at least 2 out of the 4 regions individually.

312 The Congress decides in particular about:

- 313
- membership in the network
- 314
- the broad political guidelines and basic documents of the network
- 315
- the appointment and discharge of the Steering Committee
- 316
- the main activities and work programme
- 317
- common campaigns that carry the GYG logo
- 318
- restructuring of GYG
- 319
- Congress has to approve GYG previous years balances and future budget.

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

321

322 c) Possibilities of election and voting with specific principles

323

324 i) Regional meetings at congress or at federal assemblies

325

326    ii)    **Online Voting or Election**

327    To take decisions and to vote for new SC members between congresses, or in the case  
328    there is a global or regional situation that does not allow for in-person voting, there is  
329    the possibility of online voting.

330

331    **6) Legal representation of the network**

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

335

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

338

339    **7) Disbanding the organization**

340    All proposals for disbanding the network will come from the Steering Committee or 20  
341    member organisations from at least 2 regions. The Congress or the Steering Committee  
342    in consultation with the regions decides the way in which the network will disband and  
343    fulfil its obligations. The assets after the disbanding will be donated to a legal person or  
344    entity with similar goals as the disbanded network. The decision to disband the network  
345    can only be taken with a four-fifth majority by congress.