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International Falcon Movement -
Socialist Educational International

~ CONSTITUTION ~

IFM-SEI Constitution

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IFM-SEI Constitution

I. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

1. The International Falcon Movement-Socialist Educational International

The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI) is an international educational movement working to empower children and young people to take an active role in society and fight for their rights. We are an umbrella organisation for child and youth-led movements all over the world, educating on the basis of our values of equality, democracy, peace, co-operation, solidarity and friendship. Through our member organisations and our international activities, we aim to ensure that children and young people are well informed about their rights and are empowered to ensure they are respected. To reach this goal, we organise a variety of activities including seminars, training courses, international camps and conferences.

2. A world organisation

IFM-SEI is a world movement of different types of organisations that work with children and young people and that share the aims and principles of IFM-SEI.

3. Children’s rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a key document in all our work. Through peer education, we aim to educate children and young people about their rights and support them to ensure they are respected.

4. Education

Education is the most powerful tool to achieve social change. Through non-formal education, we create a space for children and young people to develop critical awareness and empower them to challenge the inequalities in our world. We educate on the principles of respect, equality and friendship that are essential for the creation of a world where all may live in peace and solidarity. We call this socialist education.

5. International solidarity

Our motto is “Span the world with friendship”. Only by coming together as a global movement will we be able to challenge and change the current world order. We actively encourage solidarity by providing opportunities for inter-cultural exchange and learning to take place. Our activities work towards this fundamental principle as we can best achieve our aims by learning from each other, working together and supporting each other’s struggles in solidarity.

6. Equality

We educate and campaign for an inclusive and equal society. Therefore we combat any kind of discrimination such as fascism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, trans*phobia and misogyny within and outside of our organisations.

7. Gender equality

We are a feminist organisation. We fight against patriarchy and for equality of all genders. We reject the gender binary and recognise that there are more than two genders. We do not accept that women and non-binary gendered people still face discrimination on a day-to-day basis in all

societies. We are a feminist organisation and we fight for equality between genders and against patriarchy. Therefore we educate for equal rights and awareness of gender stereotypes, discrimination and privileges and we use affirmative action and tools such as the gender quota in our organisations.

8. Environmental sustainability

IFM-SEI is concerned about the misuse of the world's diminishing resources and the connected dangerous change to the world's climate. Consumerism and the extreme exploitation of natural resources by the wealthy few in society have a severe natural and human impact, disproportionately affecting poor people. We encourage member organisations to protect their own environment and take actions that support sustainability in the ecological, social, and economic sense, so that today and in the future everyone has access to a healthy, stimulating and secure environment.

9. Peace

Peace is more than just the absence of war. We choose peace and are dedicated to a world where everyone can live in a non-violent environment free from abuse, war, bullying, discrimination, exclusion and fear, that is healthy and stimulating and where conflicts can be peacefully transformed. IFM-SEI undertakes peace education and promotes peace initiatives whenever and wherever possible. Peace education must always criticize reality and the normative way to understand it but it also has to give an alternative. Peace will only be really achieved when all forms of exploitation cease.

10. Democracy

We believe that people should be able to take part in decision-making at all levels in meaningful and inclusive ways. Democratic processes govern IFM-SEI and its member organisations. Children and young people are involved in all levels of decision-making in our movement, from their local groups to the world congress. It is our firm belief that children are able to make decisions and have valid opinions on a wide variety of issues from a local to a global level but they need to be heard in society. We provide the space for children to develop their knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to secure their equal participation in the democratic process and we make sure that adequate spaces for participation are provided.

11. Anti-capitalism

The capitalist system that our society is based on creates inequality. Those suffering the most from inequality are children living in poverty who lack opportunities to develop their potential. We recognise the power that neoliberal ideology yields. In our work, we challenge the notion that competition is a characteristic of human relations and fight for alternative economic models that will bridge the gap between rich and poor and emphasize solidarity, dialogue and partnership. IFM-SEI undertakes critical education to understand the mechanisms behind capitalist systems and advocates for an alternative system, as we are only able to eradicate all forms of exploitation and end poverty once capitalism is defeated. We aim to include everyone in our activities no matter their economic means.

12. Freedom

IFM-SEI is dedicated to a world where everyone can live in freedom without being bound by war, borders, undemocratic political systems or poverty. We believe that everyone has the right to freedom of choice and freedom of speech and the freedom to develop their own identity as long as it does not restrict other people's human rights.

II. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Membership

Guiding principles of membership

- I. IFM-SEI is composed of member organisations and candidate organisations. Membership should be the aim for any organisation. Organisations shall normally only remain candidate organisations for a maximum period of three years. After that period, they must decide to apply for membership or leave IFM-SEI.
- II. Member organisations cannot become candidate organisations for financial or geographical reasons.
- III. Local branches of member organisations will not be accepted as new members.

2.2 Conditions of membership

IFM-SEI member organisations have a variety of roots and backgrounds. Some member organisations have links with the labour movement in their country but some are politically independent.

All members and candidate organisations must:

- Accept the Aims and Principles and Constitution of IFM-SEI
- Be primarily by and for children and young people and hold regular activities with them
- Ensure participation of children and young people in their decision-making structures.
- Ensure gender equality in their structures and activities
- Have a democratic structure with the governing documents sent to the IFM-SEI in Spanish or English
- Not be a member of any other international organisation that goes against the aims and principles of IFM-SEI
- Pay the necessary membership fee as set by the Congress.

2.3 Member and candidate organisations

2.3.1 Member organisations:

Members are entitled to take part in all activities of the IFM-SEI; they may attend, speak and vote at the Congress and International Committee. They may nominate candidates from any member organisations for statutory bodies of the IFM-SEI and may submit resolutions and amendments.

2.3.2 Candidate organisations:

Candidate organisations are entitled to take part in all activities of the IFM-SEI; they may attend and speak at the Congress and the International Committee. They may not vote but may co-nominate candidates from member organisations for statutory bodies of IFM-SEI. They may submit resolutions and amendments.

III. MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

3.1 Application procedures

3.1.1 Organisations requesting membership must first apply to be candidate organisations. Those which fulfil the respective requirements should, after a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 3 years of being a candidate organisation apply for membership of IFM-SEI. In exceptional circumstances this period may be extended by the IC or Congress.

3.1.2 Organisations must apply in writing to the secretariat, which will submit the application for the scrutiny of the Presidium at their next meeting. Applications should include:

- Statutes, aims and principles and other governing documents in either English or Spanish
- A resolution passed by a statutory body of the organisation accepting the aims and principles and statutes of IFM-SEI
- A summary of recent activities
- The membership application form
- A contact able to speak either English or Spanish
- A recommendation from an existing member organisation if possible

3.1.3 The Presidium will consult other members and fraternal contacts in the region and country. This information along with the Presidium's political assessment will be presented to the next Congress or International Committee with a report and recommendation. The secretariat will invite applicants to attend the respective Congress or International Committee and they will be invited to address the meeting. The membership application must be accepted by two-thirds majority of members at the International Committee or a Congress.

3.1.4 Any decision on membership made at an International Committee shall stand immediately but may be overturned at the following Congress with a simple majority.

3.2 Membership review

Membership may be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of three people from different organisations, appointed by the Control Commission who will present a report to the next International Committee or Congress. The report may recommend termination of membership. The concerned organisation should be consulted openly and should be given the opportunity to share their views.

A membership review maybe requested by:

- 10 members or 20% of the membership, whichever is less; or
- The Presidium

3.3 Membership termination

3.3.1 The Presidium may with a two-thirds majority suspend membership until the start of the next Congress or International Committee if an organisation has acted contrary to the Constitution of IFM-SEI.

3.3.2 Where membership fees remain unpaid for more than two years from the due date, the Congress or International Committee shall consider the circumstances and may terminate an organisation's membership.

3.3.3 The Congress or International Committee will hear any membership review or suspension and may suspend or terminate the membership of the organisation by a two-thirds majority.

3.3.4 Any termination of membership must be ratified by a simple majority by the following Congress if the decision is made at an International Committee.

3.4. Membership fee period

3.4.1 Each member or candidate organisation will pay an annual fee as agreed by the Congress. The membership fee period begins on January 1 in the year following the year of the ordinary Congress. The period ends at the close of the year of the next ordinary Congress.

3.4.2 When the International Committee accepts an organisation as candidate organisation or member organisation, the new membership fee period for this organisation begins on 1st January of the following year.

3.5 Membership fees and voting rights

3.5.1 Organisations having paid in full (current and previous years' membership fees) by 31st March of the current year are entitled to all votes in accordance with article 12.2 of the IFM-SEI constitution.

3.5.2 Organisations having paid all previous years' fees, with a written agreement signed by the Control Commission and the organisation for the current year made before 31st March and a record of fulfilling agreements made, are entitled to all votes in accordance with article 12.2 of the IFM-SEI constitution.

3.5.3 Organisations having made an agreement before 31st March covering both previous fees and the current year, having fulfilled agreements up to the current point but with some outstanding debts are entitled to half the number of votes in accordance with article 12.2 of the IFM-SEI constitution.

3.5.4 Organisations having paid all previous fees, having made an agreement one month before the Congress or International Committee Meeting for the current year and having paid half before the Congress, are entitled to half the number of votes in accordance with article 12.2 of the IFM-SEI constitution.

3.5.5 Organisations having made an agreement one month before the Congress or International Committee Meeting for the current year but not having paid anything before the Congress, are not entitled to vote at the IFM-SEI Congress.

3.5.6 Organisations not having paid membership fees for the current year and not having made an agreement one month before the Congress or International Committee meeting, are not entitled to participate or vote in the IFM-SEI Congress.

3.5.7 In the case of an organisation with an uneven number of votes having their votes halved, all votes in the Congress will be doubled, to avoid half votes.

IV. FRATERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Fraternal organisations are the Socialist International, Socialist International Women, International Union of Socialist Youth, the Party of European Socialists (PES) and YES– Young European Socialists.

V. STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The following bodies make up the structure and organisation of the IFM-SEI, ranked in decision-making order.

1. The Congress
2. The International Committee
3. The Presidium

Functions and structures also part of IFM-SEI:

- The Secretary General
- The Control Commission

VI. CONGRESS

6.1 The Congress is the supreme body of IFM-SEI. It shall be convened three years after its last meeting. Invitations shall be issued by the Presidium. The Congress shall be convened at the latest six months before the day of Congress opening.

6.2 An Extraordinary Congress must be convened at the latest four weeks before its opening. It can be convened by:

- 10 member organisations or 20% of member organisations, whichever is less; or
- The IFM-SEI Presidium

6.3 The Secretary General, Presidium, the Control Commission and delegates of the member and candidate organisations are entitled to participate in the Congress.

6.4 Each member organisation is entitled to send a delegation of five to the IFM-SEI Congress.

6.5 Candidate organisations are entitled to send two delegates to the Congress.

6.6 A single delegate may be of any gender. For delegations of two or three, at least one must be a woman. For delegations of four or five, at least two must be women. Organisations wishing to send a larger delegation may do so in negotiation with the IFM-SEI secretariat.

6.7 The International Committee shall, six months before the opening of Congress, decide on the rules of procedure of the Congress and appoint a Mandates Commission of 3 people to advise Congress of the number of delegates, allocated votes and to record the elections. The Mandates Commission must include at least one woman. The Congress must ratify decisions of the International Committee.

6.8 The International Committee shall ratify the election by the Presidium of a Nominations Commission of five people. The Commission shall receive and check the nominations for the different posts of IFM-SEI. The Nominations Commission shall play no role in deciding the outcome of the election, but should ensure it is fair, open and conducted according to IFM-SEI rules and principles

6.9 The Congress shall take decisions on all matters relating to the IFM-SEI

- The report of the organisation and its finances
- The Control Commission's report
- Amendments to the Constitution and Rules of Procedure
- The level of membership fees
- The work plan for the coming period
- The election of the President
- The election of members of the Presidium
- The election of the Control Commission
- The election of the Secretary General

6.10 Member Organisations, candidate organisations, the International Committee and the Presidium are entitled to table motions and submit proposals to the Congress. Submissions must be made to the Secretariat at least six weeks before the opening of the Congress.

6.11 Nominations

6.11.1 Nominations for positions in the Presidium or Control Commission shall be received in the IFM-SEI Secretariat no later than three months before the opening of the Congress. Nominations must be accompanied by a declaration from the candidates, confirming their commitment to fulfil the duties associated with the role as well as the signature of a member or candidate organisation.

6.11.2 Additional nominations may be received up to six weeks before the opening of the Congress when accompanied by the signatures of two additional member or candidate organisations.

6.11.3 Nominations from the floor of Congress may only be submitted if there are not sufficient candidates nominated by the deadline to fill vacant posts or if candidates nominated do not gain the 50% of votes required in the first round. Nominations during Congress must be supported by the signatures of seven member or candidate organisations.

6.12 Elections

6.12.1 Elections of the Presidium and Control Commission shall be done by secret ballot if

requested by one member organisation.

6.12.2 If a candidate is unopposed for any given position, they must gain at least 50% of the votes cast to be elected.

6.12.3 For the posts of President and Secretary General, candidates must gain at least 50% of the votes cast to be elected. If no candidate gains 50% of the votes cast, a second round election will take place, involving only those two candidates with the highest number of votes.

6.13 Congress documents must be sent out by the secretariat at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting.

6.14 The International Committee shall approve the minutes of the Congress.

VII. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

7.1 The International Committee (IC) is IFM-SEI' s highest decision-making and administrative body during the Congress period. It is made up of all member organisations of IFM-SEI, together with the Presidium. Each member organisation has one vote as do the members of the Presidium. The chairperson of the Control Commission shall also be a member in an advisory capacity without voting rights.

7.2 The International Committee shall meet at least once in every year in which an Ordinary Congress is held, and at least twice in every other year. The meetings shall be prepared and convened by the Presidium. There shall be a period of at least 12 hours between the end of one International Committee meeting and the beginning of another.

7.3 The tasks of the International Committee are:

- To implement the resolutions adopted by Congress.
- To develop activities in the framework of the work plan.
- To agree the annual balance
- To decide on the annual budget.
- To arrange necessary elections, whenever Presidium and Control Commission members stand down.
- To take decisions on membership questions.
- To create working groups.

One meeting of the International Committee in each year will be designated the “finance meeting”. The Presidium will ensure that this meeting takes place within 6 months of the end of the preceding financial year.

7.4 The International Committee shall seek to co-operate with other international institutions and organisations whose goals might further those of the IFM-SEI. The people it appoints to liaise with such institutions and organisations shall be directly responsible to the International Committee.

7.5 The International Committee can, after specifying their field of activity, set up special committees to work under its responsibility.

7.6 The International Committee may delegate particular tasks and activities to member organisations.

7.7 An International Committee meeting may be held online or through other electronic means where decisions are urgent.

7.8 Ten member organisations, 20% of the membership or the Presidium may call an extra-ordinary International Committee meeting.

VIII. PRESIDIUM

8.1 The Presidium consists of the following people elected in this order at each Congress:

- a. Secretary General
- b. President
- c. Two members per region (Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle East). At least one of the places for each region must be filled by a woman. From each region one member under the age of 30 on the day of election must be elected.
- d. In attendance:
 - I. The Control Commission without voting rights.
 - II. The Secretariat without voting rights.

8.2 At least one of the positions of Secretary General and President must be filled by a woman.

8.3 No Presidium member may serve more than two terms for each position.

8.4 At its first meeting the Presidium will divide the workload amongst its members, one member from each region shall be responsible to support the development of member organisations in their respective region and the other will take on responsibility for work areas as defined in the three-year work-plan. The Presidium will report on their work to the International Committee and the Congress.

8.5 All Presidium members have the following responsibilities:

- To oversee the development and fulfilment of the three year work-plan.
- To identify political and educational priorities
- To take responsibility for the finances

8.6 The Presidium should have at least three meetings per year. They may meet online or via electronic means where decisions are urgent.

8.7 The President and the Secretary General shall represent the IFM-SEI in all legal matters. They shall be empowered to sign on behalf of IFM-SEI and enter into legal commitments for IFM-SEI.

8.8 If a Presidium member is in breach of the IFM-SEI constitution or principles the Presidium may suspend that member by a 2/3 majority. The Presidium may only take this action if 10 full days notice has been given and the member has been given the opportunity to, either in writing or person, present their view to the Presidium before a vote is taken. The Presidium shall inform the membership of the outcome of any vote within five days and any suspension shall only be valid until the next International Committee meeting.

The Congress or International Committee will hear the case for suspension as the first item of business and may by a two-thirds majority remove the Presidium member from their role. If the Congress or International Committee meeting does not agree the above action by a two-thirds majority the Presidium member will be reinstated.

8.9 The International Committee or extraordinary Congress may remove any member of the Presidium by a two-thirds majority providing that: at least 10 full days notice have been given before the vote and; the member concerned has been given the opportunity to either in writing or person present their view to the International Committee or extraordinary Congress before a vote is taken.

IX. THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT

9.1 The Secretary General is responsible for the political and organisational developments in IFM-SEI. They should be actively involved in their national organisation. The Secretary General is responsible for the daily work and coordination of the Secretariat and working groups in IFM-SEI.

9.2 It is their duty to establish and maintain contacts with member organisations and with potential associations and organisations which are of importance to the IFM-SEI.

9.3 They shall represent the IFM-SEI in all matters regarding the organisation, this in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the Presidium, President and International Committee.

9.4 They will, after discussions with the President, prepare the content and organisation of the Presidium and International Committee meetings as well as preparing political discussions.

9.5 They shall submit the draft annual budget to the Presidium.

9.6 They are responsible for the accounts. They are also responsible for keeping the records of the Presidium and International Committee meetings.

9.7 Should the Secretary General resign, the International Committee should appoint a new Secretary General until the next Congress. The Presidium shall be empowered to put in place measures for running the organisation in the interim period.

9.8 The Secretary General shall be elected for a maximum of two Congress periods.

X. CONTROL COMMISSION

10.1 The Control Commission (CC) consists of three people, each must come from a different member organisation. The commission must include at least one woman. It shall choose its own chair from amongst its members.

10.2 The Control Commission shall watch over the compliance with the constitution and the Rules of Procedure and has the right to check decisions of the Congress and the International Committee.

10.3 The Presidium and Secretariat must respond without delay to any question raised by the Control Commission.

10.4 The Control Commission is responsible for the control of the administration of IFM-SEI business. It may inspect the IFM-SEI books and finances whenever it wishes, but must do so in any event no later than two months after the end of each financial period.

10.5 The Control Commission shall have no voting rights in the Presidium or the International Committee.

XI. REGIONAL NETWORKS

11.1 IFM-SEI member organisations in a geographic area can establish a regional network.

11.2 The tasks of the regional network are to be decided by the regional organisations themselves but they should ensure they work within the constitution of the IFM-SEI.

11.3 The Regional Networks have the right to make proposals to the Presidium and International Committee and Congress.

XII. THEMATIC NETWORKS

12.1 Members of IFM-SEI member organisation working on a specific topic that complies with the aims and principles of IFM-SEI can establish a thematic network.

12.2 The International Committee or the Congress needs to agree on the establishment of a thematic network.

12.3 The network democratically elects a coordinator every three years. The election needs to be ratified by the IFM-SEI Congress.

12.4 The tasks of the thematic network are to be decided by the members itself, but they must ensure they work within the constitution of IFM-SEI.

12.5 The thematic networks have the right to make proposals to the Presidium, International

XIII. VOTING

13.1 Mandated votes

Each member organisation participating in the Congress has a number of mandated votes in accordance with the size of the organisation. The right to vote is dependent upon all membership fees having been paid in accordance with article 3.4 and 3.5. of the IFM-SEI constitution but is independent of the number of delegates present.

13.2 Voting at the Congress

13.2.1 Where an organisation with an uneven number of votes loses half of its votes (as set out in article 3.5), every organisations' votes will be doubled to avoid half votes.

13.2.2 Each Member organisation is entitled to:

- 2 votes for up to..... 5.000 members
- 3 votes for above 5.000 members
- 4 votes for above 9.000 members
- 5 votes for above 14.000 members

13.2.3 Candidate organisations will have no vote at the Congress.

13.3 Voting at the IC meeting

Each member organisation has one vote at the IC meeting. In addition, each member of the Presidium has one vote. Candidate organisations will have no vote at the IC meetings.

13.4 Voting on resolutions

Voting on resolutions shall be by a show of voting cards unless three member organisations request a secret ballot or for each vote to be recorded.

13.5 Elections

The election of the President, members of the Presidium, Control Commission and Secretary General shall be done by secret ballot if requested by one member organisation.

13.6 Majorities

Decisions in IFM-SEI are taken by simple majority unless stated otherwise. A simple majority means more than 50% of the votes cast not including abstentions, a two-thirds majority means more than 66% votes cast, rounded up to the nearest whole number, not including abstentions.

A two-thirds majority shall be required to:

- i) Accept into membership or terminate the membership of an organisation
- ii) Change the constitution, aims, principles and headquarters of the IFM-SEI.

13.7 Online voting

An online voting system can be used for decisions by the International Committee. The Presidium will decide the procedure for such a vote.

13.8 Quorum

Every statutory meeting must have a quorum of at least 30% of possible votes. If the quorum is not achieved the meeting must be reconvened. To reconvene a meeting a period of six weeks is needed. For the reconvened meeting, no quorum is necessary.

During a meeting, the quorum shall be 2/3 of votes held.

XIV. DISSOLUTION

Congress may dissolve the IFM-SEI only on the basis of a two-thirds majority. If dissolution should occur, all property and assets belonging to the IFM-SEI shall revert to the Socialist International with the stipulation that they should be used for work with children and youth.

XV. PROVISION

This constitution shall come into force as soon as the resolution pertaining to it is adopted.

Any change must be in accordance with the legal statutes as registered at the legal headquarters of the organisation.