

WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION
GEOGRAPHIC-REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION (STATUTES)

CHAPTER 1.

NAME AND MAIN OFFICE

Article 1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

World Lebanese Cultural Union Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand is the exclusive affiliate of the World Lebanese Cultural Union which is an independent civil institution, non-governmental, non-political, non-racialist, non-religious and non-profit, duly recognised as the sole representative of the Lebanese expansion in the World. The Union being a cultural and philanthropic institution seeking not any material benefit. It is governed by its statutes and its by-laws and its organisms are entitled to bear the name of the State/City/Province of the country in which it is located along with its name.

Article 2. MAIN OFFICE ADDRESS

The office and its mailing address may be transferred from time to time in accordance with the location of a newly elected President and Secretary-General.

CHAPTER 2. AIMS AND MEANS

Article 3. ITS OBJECTIVE

- a. To enhance and promote the spirit of allegiance and patriotism among members of the Union and through the countries in which they live, and to share actively for the benefits of those countries in the fields of education, culture and society.
- b. To consolidate the ties of friendship and concord among its members and hence promote the links of friendship and mutual understanding among the countries in which members of the Union live
- c. To create and promote the ties of friendliness and mutual understanding and enhance such ties among all those countries and Lebanon, and encourage the cultural, social, touristic and economic activities which are of mutual interest between Lebanon and the countries of residence, on one side, and among Lebanese citizens and the Lebanese descendants, on the other side.

- d. To promulgate the Lebanese heritage in countries of residence of the Union members and promulgate countries among themselves and in Lebanon
- e. To acquaint people of Lebanon's civilisation and of the integral role it has played throughout its history in the service of humanity, and safeguard the Lebanese existence and entity in order to enable Lebanon to pursue its efforts in the service of world peace and understanding among peoples.
- f. To fostering faith, peace and understanding among peoples by encouraging members of the Union to serve their communities irrespective of any, personal or material gain, and seek to promote the standards of moral values in the field of commerce, public works and private life.
- g. Establishing and administering National Lebanese Information Centres to provide both the Lebanese and wider communities in both Australia and New Zealand, with the appropriate facilities and services to foster and enhance the aims and objectives of the W.L.C.U.

Article 4.

The Union aims also to achieve its objectives with respect to:

- a. Consolidation of the entity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon as a final homeland for all the Lebanese; exposition of the distinctive identity of the Lebanese expansion, organisation and activation of this expansion.
- b. Granting facilities and services available to the Lebanese emigrants and their descendants.

CHAPTER 3.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Article 5.

- a. The Union is composed of branches, clubs, associations, leagues, institutions and federations, joining Lebanese Citizens and descendants of Lebanese origin who believe in Lebanon as a final homeland for all compatriots and who are not affiliated to other institutions whose objectives contradict the Lebanese entity.
- b. The aforementioned chapters of the Geographic-Regional Council shall formalise their membership by contributing to the administrative expenses of the Council such sum each year as determined by the executive committee. A chapter shall not be entitled to its rights and privileges as a member unless the membership fees are paid at least three months prior the annual general meeting.

Article 6.

The Union includes the aforementioned members which are disseminated throughout all the States and Territories of Australia, the North and South islands of New Zealand, Fiji and all other islands and countries within the region of Oceania.

CHAPTER 4

Article 7.

- a. Chapters of the Geographic-Regional Council shall consist of branches, clubs, associations, youths committee/leagues, institutions and federations having at least thirty members who have a common interest or purpose. They shall first be approved and recognised by their respective State Council and subsequently by the Geographic-Regional Council, which authority shall refer all necessary documents to the Secretary-General for registration and formal recognition.
- b. Australia
State Councils - Each State Council shall be composed of the President or one (1) delegate from each chapter. From amongst them they shall elect a President and Committee in accordance with the requirements of their respective State Constitution.
- c. New Zealand
National Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union of New Zealand shall be composed of the President or one delegate of each chapter. From amongst them they shall elect a President and Committee in accordance with the requirements of their respective National Constitution.
- d. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall be composed of one delegate for every 30 registered members of each chapter, Presidents of State Council or their representatives. From amongst these delegate to the Geographic-Regional Council shall elect the following

Office bearers:

1. President
2. Senior Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary

Who shall for the Executive Committee of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand.

- e. If a State Council does not exist. or has not been formed i.e. a State then, the Chapter of the W.L.C.U. in that State shall be entitled to have as delegates on the Geographic-Regional Council its President and three other delegates.
- f. If any of the Executive Committee and delegates to the Geographic-Regional Council
 1. Is convicted of an indictable offence; or
 2. Fails to comply with any of the provisions of this constitution; or
 3. Conducts himself or herself in a manner considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Geographic-Regional Council, the Geographic-Regional Council shall consider whether the person's representation on the Council shall be terminated.
 4. The person concerned shall be given a full and fair opportunity of presenting their case and if the Council resolves by ordinary majority to remove the person, the Secretary-General shall inform the person in writing of their removal from the Council.

CHAPTER 5

Article 8.

- a. The Geographic-Regional Council shall appoint a Secretary-General who:
 - I. Shall be domiciled in the same city as the President;
 - II. Whose term shall be concurrent with that of the President;
 - III. Shall have no right to vote in Council decisions.
- b. The Geographic-Regional Council:
 - I. Shall retain office for a period of two years with the right to be nominated for office for further two years such right to be exercised once only.
 - II. If a State or National Council President or delegate ceases to hold his/her position on their respective State or National Council, he/she shall automatically forfeit his/her position on the Geographic-Regional Council and shall be replaced by the newly elected President or delegate, with the exception of the members of the Executive Committee who are elected for two years.
- c. Past Presidents of the former Regional Council and the present/current Geographic-Regional Council:
 - I. Shall be life members of the Geographic-Regional Council, or any name it might assume in the future;
 - II. Can vote, nominate and be re-elected to the Executive Committee;
 - III. Cannot delegate their vote.
- d. Members of the Union living in the above mentioned Geographical region shall commit themselves to honour the Union's objectives and shall be subject to the provisions of this constitution immediately after their affiliation to the Union. The conditions of affiliation of the branches, clubs, associations, leagues, institutions and federations will be stipulated upon their application for membership.

Article 9.

The Power and duties of the President of the Geographic Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand of the World Lebanese Cultural Union:

1. The President is the most senior official of the World Lebanese Cultural Union in this Geographical region;
2. The President will at all times be the sole spokesperson for and on behalf of the World Lebanese Cultural Union for Australia and New Zealand.
3. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall at all times represent the world President in this Geographical region, unless the World President is here present in person.

4. In the event of a need arising for a delegation to travel outside this Geographical region on World Lebanese Cultural Union business/congress, then the President shall head such a delegation and lead all discussions for the benefit of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand and the World Lebanese Cultural Union in general.
5. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council:
 - a. Shall represent the Council judicially and administratively before all public and private bodies.
 - b. Shall preside over sessions of the Geographic-Regional Council.
 - c. Shall convoke the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand.
 - d. Shall implement or ensure the implementation of the decisions of the World Council and the Geographic-Regional Council, and to supervise the activities of the State and National Councils in this Geographical region.
 - e. Shall exercise any other powers necessary and conferred upon the President by the constitution of this Geographic-Regional Council, in order to realise the objectives of the World Lebanese Cultural Union and this Geographic-Regional Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.
6. The President has the power to delegate responsibilities to other members of the Council.

Article 10.

Powers and duties of the Vice-President:

- a. To replace the President in case of absence, physical impediment, resignation or death.
- b. To support and assist in all facets of the organisation as requested by the President.

Article 11.

Should the office of the President become vacant due to resignation or death then the Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities and duties of that office until the election of a new president which must take place within ninety days from the date of the President's ,resignation or death.

Article 12.

Duties of the Secretary:

- a. To replace the Secretary-General in case of absence.
- b. To assists the Secretary-General in his/her duties.

Article 13.

Duties of the Treasurer:

- a. To collect revenues and issue receipts.
- b. To pay expenses.
- c. To prepare annual budgets.
- d. To operate bank account/s and co-sign cheques with President or Secretary-General. Cheques shall be co-signed by any two of: President, Secretary-General and Treasurer.
- e. To keep proper sets of books relating to funds of the Council.
- f. To present an audited annual statement and balance sheet to the Council.
- g. To execute any other relative function assigned by the President of the Council.

Article 14.

Duties of the Secretary-General:

- a. To carry out all responsibilities pertaining to this office such as drafting of documents, implementation of the resolutions of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand.
- b. To draw up the minutes of each Council meeting and forward to each Council member within thirty days of the relevant meeting.
- c. To support and assist the President in the facets of the President's functions and responsibilities.
- d. To fulfil all duties assigned to him/her by the President.
- e. The Secretary-General or his appointed Deputy shall supervise all the elections of this Geographical Region.
- f. The Secretary-General cannot be removed from office unless he/she violates the constitution of the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand, or fails to fulfil the duties assigned to him/her. A Contract specifying the duties and obligations of the Secretary-General shall be duly signed by the President and the Secretary-General.
- g. If the Secretary-General is found to have acted contrary to his obligations under this constitution, he may be removed from office by a resolution passed by a majority of the members of the Geographic-Regional Council.

(Amendment: The Secretary Generals whose term was from the period 1999 to 2006 can vote, nominate and be selected to the Executive Committee. They cannot delegate their vote; they must be present)

Article 15.

- a. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand of the World Lebanese Cultural Union shall hold its ordinary session at least once each year. The Quorum shall consist of 75% of its members or their representatives.
- b. The Geographic-Regional Council shall convene an extraordinary session upon written request of two members specifying the reasons for such a session and directing their written request to the Secretary-General. The President shall instruct the Secretary-General who will then invite the Council to convene within thirty (30) days.

CHAPTER 6

Article 16.

The relationship between the World Lebanese Cultural Union and the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall be as follows:

- a. All State Councils throughout Australia and the National Council of New Zealand and any other similarly established organisation/s in any other island/country within the region of Oceania shall form the Geographic-Regional Council of Australia and New Zealand.
- b. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall be the exclusive affiliate and representative of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.
- c. All individuals, chapters, clubs, branches and organisations who wish to become financial members of the World Lebanese Cultural Union must apply through the Geographic-Regional Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union for Australia and New Zealand and its affiliate associations.
- d. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall at all times give due consideration to the spirit of the World Lebanese Cultural Union constitution and by-laws. However, in the event of any conflict, variance or discrepancy of any form, the Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand reserves the right to take decisions and actions it deems appropriate for the well-being of the Geographical region and its members in accordance with this constitution.
- e. The World Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union also shall at all times give due consideration to the worldwide community of Lebanese origin by demonstrating unity, loyalty, honesty and commitment to the objectives of the constitution of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.

CHAPTER 7.

ADMINISTRATION

Article 17.

The President and executive committee of the Geographic-Regional Council shall determine:

- a. The method and required documentation for a chapter to become a part of World Lebanese Cultural Union.
- b. The membership fees from time to time for each State/National Council to become a member of the Geographic-Regional Council.
- c. Once (a) and (b) of Article 16 have been approved by the Geographic-Regional Council, they then take effect immediately.
- d. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand of World Lebanese Cultural Union, shall as soon as is practicable, employ a secretary for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

CHAPTER 8.

AMENDMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION

Article 18.

This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members of this Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand of the World Lebanese Cultural Union, at any Extraordinary or General Meeting in accordance with the following:

- a. The proposal for amendment must be as formally submitted in writing by any chapter or any member of this Geographic-Regional Council to the President.
- b. Notice of intention to submit a proposal to amend this constitution of this Geographic-Regional Council must be received by the President in writing sixty (60) days before the proposed Extraordinary or General Meeting together with a copy of the proposed amendment.
- c. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council shall forward the proposed amendment to all members of this Geographic-Regional Council, to be received by them thirty days before the date of the Extraordinary or General Meeting.
- d. Voting is to be carried out either by secret ballot or by a show of hands. Members unable to attend the meeting may appoint any other Council member by proxy to vote on their behalf.
- e. Proxy votes can be granted for any voting purpose, by the individual/chapter member eligible for such vote. Proxy notice should be confirmed in writing to the delegated voter, and a copy

of the same written confirmation of proxy must be also received by the Secretary-General no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting during which the voting is expected to take place.

GENERAL RULES

1. The official language of this constitution is English. The Geographic-Regional Council must ensure the provision of an official approved Arabic translation.
2. This constitution shall come into effect immediately.
3. Until such time as this Geographic-Regional Council appoints its own Arbitration Committee, all decisions regarding any disputes shall be undertaken by this Council and all decisions shall be final.