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1968

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
International Secretariat

International Constitution

1. Name

The name of the international organisation shall be SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL. The National branches which choose another name must add: "... (Swiss, Dutch, Indian, etc.)" Branch of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL)" to their own name.

2. Membership

Membership is open to all who share the aims of the movement, without regard to race, colour, religion, nationality or political views.

3. Aims and methods

The aims and methods of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL are:

31. To provide opportunities by which volunteers of all nationalities and outlook can, without regard to national frontiers, give practical assistance at times of natural catastrophes and in other cases of need. Such assistance shall be for the benefit of the community as a whole and shall neither compete with ordinary labour nor serve the purpose of strikebreaking.
32. Through the means of practical service in the community to spread across barriers which divide men a new spirit which will render morally impossible war between nations and the degradation of human dignity, and in which spirit all men and women may live free from want, ignorance and fear of war.
33. To work for the establishment of an international constructive service which will foster greater confidence between the nations of the world and eventually replace military service.
34. In the meantime, in countries in which compulsory military service exists without the possibility of an alternative service, to work for the introduction of such a service for conscientious objectors.
35. To provide men and women of good will, without regard to their nationality, race, colour, religion, politics or class, with a sound system of training in mutual help and international understanding and in voluntary discipline and comradeship.

4. Interpretation of the Constitution

41. When doubt arises as to whether an existing or proposed activity of a branch or group is within the aims and methods of SCI, in particular when it might have political implications, the International Committee shall interpret the constitution, either on the request of a branch, or on its own initiative. Any decision of interpretation made by the International committee shall take effect when made, but a branch may request that the matter be referred to the branches. The decision shall cease to have effect if and when within one year after the International Committee decision two thirds of the branches notify their disagreement to the International Secretariat.
42. In case of emergency affecting the "raison d'être" of a branch, the National Committee of that branch shall comply with the emergency procedure laid down for this purpose by the International Committee. If no decision can be reached by this procedure the National Committee shall make its own decision after taking into careful consideration the opinions expressed by the members of the International Executive Committee.
43. In cases of emergency which do not affect the "raison d'être" of a branch but require a rapid decision, the Executive Committee will make a provisional decision pending the next meeting of the International Committee.
44. All other questions of interpretation shall be settled by the International Committee.

5. Function

The function of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL international organisation is:

51. To unite in one body the branches and groups which exist in various parts of the world, and to co-ordinate the work done by them. So, in its international organisation, by the application of the same basic aims and by the exchange of volunteers, and in its outward relations by publications and propaganda, the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL will appear as one international movement comprising many nations.
52. To encourage the formation of new national branches where there are none and keep in contact with organisations and individuals whose aims are similar to its own.

6. Structure

The international organisation of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL shall function through:

- The International Committee
- The Executive Committee
- The Regional Secretaries' Meetings
- The International Secretariat

7. The International Committee

71. The International Committee is composed of:

- 711. One delegate from each national branch
- 712. Co-opted members in the proportion of one member for every two delegates of national branches
- 713. The International President, the Vice-Presidents, the International Treasurer and ex officio the International General Secretary.

The office of President, Vice-President or International Treasurer cannot be held together with the position of delegate.

Each branch may nominate a substitute delegate.

The delegated members shall choose the members to be co-opted to the International Committee from a list presented by the National Committees and the International Executive Committee.

72. The International Committee shall determine the general principles to be applied to further the aims of the movement, and will take all necessary steps with respect to the organisation and functioning of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL. The International Committee shall be responsible for seeing that in all undertakings organised in the name of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL, the spirit of the movement is observed.

73. The International Committee also has the following functions:

- 731. Changes in the International Constitution
- 732. Expulsion of a branch
- 733. Dissolution of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

When one of these functions is to be discussed, the International Committee Meeting shall be called according to the procedure in the Annex to the Constitution.

74. The International Committee shall receive from the branches, groups and the International Secretariat written reports of their activities and financial statements including balance sheets duly audited.

75. The International Committee shall elect for two years the President of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Auditors; and shall appoint the member of the International Secretariat. In the election of the International Officers, members of the International Committee shall have the opportunity to vote by post, provided that any such vote will be received before the Committee vote.

76. The International Committee is to be re-elected every two years. It shall normally meet once a year. It can, furthermore, be convened in a case of emergency by the Executive Committee on its own decision or at the request of one-third of the members of the International Committee.

77. The delegate members of the International Committee shall make arrangements for the filling of casual vacancies among the co-opted members. Whenever the President is unable to fulfil his functions these shall be performed by the Vice-President named for this purpose by the International Committee.

78. The International Committee shall be responsible for filling any casual vacancies among the elected officers that may occur.

The quorum of the International Committee shall be one half of the members. In cases where a unanimous decision is impossible, a majority vote will suffice. The decisions must be respected by the Regional Secretaries' meetings, the branches and the groups.

8. The Executive Committee

81. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the International General Secretary and the International Treasurer.

82. The Executive Committee shall assist the International Secretariat with advice, and on important occasions shall represent the organisation.
83. Between meetings of the International Committee, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for seeing that in all undertakings organised in the name of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL, the spirit of the movement is adhered to.

9. The Regional Secretaries' Meetings

91. The Regional Secretaries' Meetings are composed of national secretaries, members of the International Secretariat and any other members invited from the IC and its advisors.
92. The Regional Secretaries' Meetings shall make recommendations to the International Committee on policy matters, submit proposals for approval and be responsible through correspondence and meetings, for the execution of the decisions taken by the International Committee.
93. The Regional Secretaries' Meetings shall coordinate the activities of the national branches to ensure close cooperation between them. They will in particular give advice to newly formed branches, and examine how best the ideals of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL can be spread to countries where there is no national branch.
94. The Secretaries' Meetings shall take place at least once a year, at a time sufficiently in advance of the annual International Committee Meeting to allow for prior distribution of proposals and recommendations from the Secretaries' Meetings to the International Committee Meeting.

10. The International Secretariat

101. The International Secretariat is composed of:

- the international general secretary
- the regional secretaries
- such other officers as may be appointed by the International Committee to serve on the International Secretariat.

Terms of reference for each member of the International Secretariat shall be provided by the International Secretariat.

102. The international general secretary shall be responsible to the International Committee for the functioning of the International Secretariat. He shall have the right to sign on behalf of the international organisation and may allot international responsibilities to regional secretaries who will act as his agents.
103. The main function of the International Secretariat shall be:
- 1031 to maintain constant contact with the different national branches;
 - 1032 to submit to the Secretaries' Meetings proposals of the International Secretariat and to bring forward proposals from national branches;
 - 1033 to assist in the organisation of services in countries where there is no national branch or group, and also in the formation of new national branches;
 - 1034 to maintain contact with other organisations with similar aims and to further co-operation with them;
 - 1035 to publish an international bulletin and such other printed matter as is required.

11. Amendments of constitution

Any amendment to this constitution shall take effect as soon as it has been accepted by a two-thirds majority of the International Committee Meeting.

12. Expulsion of a branch

The International Committee shall have power by a two-thirds majority to expel a member branch.

13. Dissolution

The International organisation of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL can only be dissolved by unanimous decision of the International Committee Meeting or when all national branches are dissolved. In the first case, the International Committee Meeting shall decide which national branch or branches shall take over equipment and funds from the International Secretariat.

Annex to the Constitution

1. The International Committee or the International Executive Committee shall give to the branches at least one year's notice of an International Committee Meeting called for the purpose of amending the constitution.
2. At least six months before such a meeting of the International Committee, the International Executive Committee shall consider all subsequent proposals for amendment to the constitution which have been received by the International Secretariat and shall immediately inform all branches of these proposals. No other proposals for amendment shall be considered at the International Committee Meeting.
3. The International Committee or the International Executive Committee shall give to the branches at least six months' notice of an International Committee Meeting called for the expulsion of a branch or the dissolution of SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL and shall in that notice state the purpose of the meeting.
4. The procedure of Article 11 shall apply to this Annex.

Accepted by the SCI Delegates' Meeting at Bièvres, 1949; modified by the 1954 Delegates' Meeting at Stams, the 1956 Delegates' Meeting at Rambouillet, the 1962 Delegates' Meeting at Noisy sur Oise and the 1968 Delegates' Meeting (handing over its power to the International Committee and dissolving itself) at Marly-le-Roi.