

Statute of the Global Campus of Human Rights – as adopted on 23 February 2019

Preamble

The representatives of the undersigned Universities,

Considering that human rights and democracy are fundamental values for all human beings and societies and recognising the universality, equality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights;

Taking into account the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, all relevant United Nations human rights treaties, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant documents of the United Nations and regional organisations engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights;

Considering that the European Union, as stated in the Lisbon Treaty (or Treaty on European Union) “is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities” (Article 2), values which are further proclaimed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; that it recognizes the rights enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights as its own general principles of law and aspires to be a party to this document (Article 6); and that it sets out to promote universality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights worldwide (Article 21);

Taking into account the Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy 2016, the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019, the New European Consensus on Development 2017, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 and other relevant documents of the European Union;

Considering the necessity of developing the teaching of human rights and democracy in the universities, as well as in the overall teaching systems both in school and out of school, in co-operation with national, regional and international organisations and civil society entities;

Fully aware of the importance of the university in promoting law-based and just societies, at the national, regional, and international levels, infused with the universal human values, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international and regional instruments;

Considering the necessity of promoting co-operation among universities, with the aim of further developing research and teaching programmes on human rights, democracy, and good governance, taking advantage from sharing their experience as well as educational and scientific resources;

Recognizing the cooperation developed in the framework of the Global Campus of Master’s Programmes and Diplomas in Human Rights and Democratisation, involving - the European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA); the European Regional Master’s Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA); the Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA); the Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Asia-Pacific (APMA); the Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus (CES); the Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LATMA); and the Master’s Programme in Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Arab Region (ARMA);

Recognizing that the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), which was founded in 2002, has gradually been transformed from a European into a global inter-university centre, re-named the Global Campus of Human Rights as of 2019.

Further acknowledging the legislative changes occurred with the reform introduced by the Legislative Decree n.117 of 3 July 2017.

Have agreed to amend the current Statute of the association.

Art.1 – Constitution

1. The Global Campus of Human Rights is a global inter-university centre active in the field of post-graduate education on human rights and democracy.
2. In accordance with Art. 14 et seq. of the Italian Civil Code, the non-profit association (Entity of the Third Sector ETS) named "Global Campus of Human Rights ETS" is established (hereinafter referred to as "Global Campus").
3. The Global Campus has its main seat in Venice, at the Monastery of St Nicolò, Lido and shall be able to establish secondary branches in order to pursue its statutory aims. In the event of a transfer of the seat within the Municipality of Venice, this will not entail modifications to the current statute.
4. The Global Campus operates at the national, regional and international level.
5. The duration of the Global Campus shall be unlimited.

Art. 2 – Aims

1. The activities of general interest carried out by the Global Campus fall within those foreseen by Art. 5 of the Legislative Decree 117/2017, letters (g), (h), (v), (w).
Therefore:
The Global Campus aims at coordinating seven Regional Master Programmes in Human Rights and Democratisation, carried out in different regions of the world with the co-financing and support of the European Union. These seven Regional Master Programmes are:
 - the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA), jointly organised by the E.MA Governing Bodies (Venice) – Global Campus Europe;
 - the European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA), coordinated by the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the University of Bologna (Italy) – Global Campus South East Europe;
 - the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), coordinated by the University of Pretoria (South Africa) – Global Campus Africa;
 - the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Asia-Pacific (APMA), coordinated by Mahidol University, Nakhon Pathom (Thailand) – Global Campus Asia-Pacific;
 - the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus (CES), coordinated by the Yerevan State University (Armenia) – Global Campus Caucasus;
 - the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LATMA), coordinated by the University of San Martin, Buenos Aires (Argentina) – Global Campus Latin-America - Caribbean;
 - and the Master's Programme in Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Arab Region (ARMA), coordinated by Saint Joseph University in Beirut (Lebanon) – Global Campus Arab World.
2. In addition, the Global Campus secures the implementation of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, as organised by the relevant governing bodies of the latter.

3. The Global Campus may contribute to the implementation of further projects of the European Union and its Member States aiming at promoting the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the development and consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and good governance.
4. The Global Campus will promote additional activities of education, training, research and information in the field of human rights, democratisation, good governance and global citizenship. In so doing, the Global Campus will seek the involvement and full cooperation of all its members.
5. The Global Campus will foster a community of graduates, scholars, researchers and professionals to promote democracy and the implementation of human rights worldwide.
6. In pursuing its objectives, the Global Campus will give priority to the programmes established in cooperation with the European Union and other international organisations, namely: the United Nations, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO, UNDP, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the OAS, the AU, ASEAN, the League of Arab States as well as with other regional organisations, national human rights institutions, and non-governmental organisations.

Art. 3 – Members

1. The members of the Global Campus are universities and other institutions of higher education, which accede to this Statute and are admitted by the Assembly.
2. There are two categories of members of the Global Campus:
 - a. Universities representing the seven Regional Master programmes: coordinating universities listed in Article 2(1) and universities elected by the EMA Governing Bodies to represent EMA
 - b. Other universities and institutions of higher education.
3. Universities participating in any of the regional Master programmes of the Global Campus have the right to become members of the Global Campus, by acceding to the present Statute.
4. The Assembly may admit as additional member universities and other institutions of higher education willing to contribute to the aims of the Global Campus, provided that they fully agree with the terms of the present Statute.
5. Universities and other institutions of higher education wishing to accede to the Global Campus must submit an express request to the Global Campus Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”), including a statement on willingness to contribute to the aims of the Global Campus, and commitment to approve and abide to the Global Campus’s Statute and regulations. A letter of support by at least one member of the Global Campus is required for acceding to the Global Campus. The Assembly, upon proposal of the Council, shall decide on the accession, at its first available session.
6. The members of the Global Campus cease their membership either in case of withdrawal or in case of exclusion. Withdrawal must be communicated to the President giving at least 12 months’ notice. The member must fulfill its obligations towards the Global Campus until the moment of withdrawal. Exclusion of a member can be decided by the Assembly, on the proposal of the Council, in case of acting against the aims, obligations and principles of the statute. Exclusion will enter into force 30 days following notification of the decision on exclusion, and must include the reasons on the basis of which it was decided. Decisions on exclusion of a member require a two-thirds majority vote of all members present in the Assembly.
7. The Global Campus’s relationships and terms of reference are regulated in conformity with Italian law and other relevant legal norms. In particular, the Global Campus must comply with the norms aimed at guaranteeing the effectiveness of the associates’ relationships and at expressly excluding temporary participation in the Global Campus’s life, meaning that membership for a limited period is expressly excluded. Membership status is not transmissible.

8. In conformity with the above-mentioned norms the governing bodies of the Global Campus are freely eligible; the principle of "one member one vote" is guaranteed.

Art. 4 – Patrimony

1. The Global Campus's patrimony is composed of:
 - a. The start-up (or endowment) fund conferred on the occasion of the request of legal personality in line with the Presidential Decree (D.P.R) 361/2000; fund which shall be adequate to the realisation of the statutory aims, not available, and assigned as security to third parties who have a relationship with the Global Campus;
 - b. Any other sum or asset assigned to increase the patrimony.
2. The utilisation of the patrimony for any other contingent and exceptional need must be temporary, and shall be reintegrated in the earliest possible time.
3. The patrimony, including any profit, revenue, earning, or income however described, shall be used for carrying out the statutory activities for the sole purpose of pursuing aims of civic, solidarity and social utility.

Art. 5 – Funding

1. The Global Campus's costs are met through funds from its own activities and from properties and contributions received from:
 - a. the participating universities, by means of teaching, research, training, financial support and related support services;
 - b. the Municipality of Venice, by means of making available the venue of the Monastery of St Nicolò at the Lido, and the contiguous premises;
 - c. the European Union, within the limits of the specific provisions of the EU budget;
 - d. any other entity or international organisation, for ad hoc projects;
 - e. any other public or private contributor, on a regular or extraordinary basis.
2. The costs of the Global Campus's activities must be covered with a view to preserve the patrimony. Distribution of profit, surplus, funds, reserves or capital, even indirectly, is forbidden during the entire life of the non-profit association, unless destination or distribution are imposed by law. Any surplus that might arise has to be fully re-invested in order to pursue the Global Campus's aims, cannot be revalued and is not transferable.

Art. 6 – Organs

Organs of the Global Campus are:

- the Assembly;
- the Council;
- the President;
- the First Vice President, and other Vice Presidents, if appointed;
- the Honorary President/s, if appointed;
- the Secretary General;
- the Advisory Board, if established;
- the Supervisory Body (Auditor)

Art. 7 - Composition of the Global Campus Assembly

1. The Assembly is the highest governing body of the Global Campus; it gives directions and supervises the implementation of policies.
2. Members of the Assembly are the members of the Global Campus, as defined in Article 3 of the present Statute.
3. The universities and institutions of higher education participating in the Global Campus will be represented by their Rector or Vice-Rector, or by a professor, designated by the university, experienced in the field of human rights and democracy.

Art. 8 – Convening and meetings of the Global Campus Assembly

1. The Assembly meets at least once every year and whenever the President deems it necessary or when requested in writing by one tenth of its members. In such case, the summons must be notified within thirty days from the date of the request.
2. A summons must be made by the President in written form, and shall be notified at least ten days before the meeting. The summons has to indicate the date, location and time of the meeting as well as the agenda items proposed; and, eventually, the date, location and time of the second convening meeting expressly admitted and foreseen, which must be scheduled at least 24 hours after the first convening;
3. If the Assembly meets upon request of one third of its members it may be convened either by the President or by the Secretary General.
4. Every member has the right to one vote and can in addition be entitled to up to ten proxies.
5. The Secretary General or a person designated by him or her acts as the Secretary of the meetings. The minutes of all meetings shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the meeting.
6. The Assembly can convene also by video- or teleconference, provided that all the participants in the meeting can be identified by the President and by all the other participants as well, that all of them are allowed to follow the agenda under discussion and to intervene in real-time, that they are allowed to access, as well as propose, documents related to the agenda items discussed, and that all the aforementioned conditions are recorded in the meeting's minutes. Provided these conditions are met, the Assembly is considered convened at the seat where both the President and the Secretary of the meeting are located, in order for the minutes to be drafted and signed.
7. The Assembly, in ordinary session, is validly constituted during first convening with the absolute majority of the members. During second convening, the Assembly is validly constituted if at least one third of its members are present or represented by proxy.
8. Unless a higher quorum is required by this Statute, decisions of the Assembly are taken by a majority vote of all members attending or represented by proxy.

Art. 9 - Tasks of the Global Campus Assembly

1. The Assembly is sovereign in all subjects of its competence, in accordance with the present Statute and the existing norms.
2. The Assembly will decide on the following:
 - a. election of the President, of the First Vice-President and other Vice-Presidents if required, and of the Honorary President/s of the Global Campus;
 - b. appointment of the Secretary General;
 - c. election of eight members of the Council;
 - d. appointment of one to three Auditors;
 - e. appointment of the Advisory Board;
 - f. approval of the general directions for the activity cycle ahead;
 - g. approval of the financial statement of the Global Campus;

- h. the approval of proposed amendments to the present Statute in accordance with Art. 23 of the present Statute;
- i. the exclusion of members of the Global Campus in accordance with Art. 3(6) of the present Statute;
- j. the dismissal of any official appointed by the Assembly in accordance with Art. 20 of the present Statute.
- k. Taking civil liability actions towards Council members
- l. the dissolution of the Global Campus and the appointment of a liquidator in accordance with Art. 21 of the present Statute.

Art. 10 - Membership of the Global Campus Council

1. The Global Campus Council (the "Council") is composed of representatives of the seven Regional Master Programmes in the sense of Art. 3(2)(a) - with one vote per programme - and eight representatives elected by the Assembly from its other members in the sense of Art. 3(2)(b). The members of the Council include the President and one or more Vice-President/s of the Global Campus. All members of the Council must be representatives of universities that are members of the Global Campus.
2. The Council shall propose to the Assembly the President and Vice-President/s for election.
3. The Council may also invite other persons, representing public or private regular contributors to the Global Campus's budget, as observers to the Council's non-reserved business without voting rights.
4. The eight members of the Council that are elected by the Assembly shall serve for a term of four years and for a maximum of two consecutive terms. In case of resignation, the Assembly shall proceed to elect the new member or members at the earliest time possible.
5. The Council shall establish specialized working groups to assist it with the in-depth analysis of budgetary, legal and other issues, availing itself of the personnel referred to in Art. 12(4).

Art.11 - Convening of meetings of the Global Campus Council

1. The Council is convened by the President through written summons indicating the date, location and time of the meeting as well as the agenda items proposed – and shall be notified at least ten days before the meeting's date.
2. The Council can also be convened upon request in writing of at least three Council members, within 30 days by the receipt of such request. In cases of exceptional urgency, the President or the Secretary General may convene the Council with five days' notice. The summons shall list the agenda items to be discussed, and all necessary documentation shall be enclosed in order to ensure that all Council members are adequately informed.
3. The Council is validly constituted with ten members of the Council attending, and deliberates with the favorable vote of the majority of the members attending. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the President shall be decisive.
4. The deliberations of the Council shall be reflected in the meeting's minutes signed by the President and by the Secretary of the meeting.
5. If necessary the Council can convene and deliberate also by video- and teleconference, provided that all the participants in the meeting can be identified by the President and by all the other participants as well, that all of them are allowed to follow the agenda under discussion and to intervene in real-time, that they are allowed to access, as well as propose, documents related to the agenda items discussed, and that all the aforementioned conditions are recorded in the meeting's minutes. Provided these conditions are met, the Council is considered convened at the seat where both the President and the Secretary of the meeting are located, in order for the minutes to be drafted and signed.

Art. 12 - Tasks of the Global Campus Council

1. The Council has the general powers of extraordinary and ordinary administration except for matters reserved to the Assembly.
2. In addition, the Council, subject to approval by the Assembly, will adopt the following acts:
 - a. the annual work programme and budget of the Global Campus for the activity cycle ahead;
 - b. the financial statement of the Global Campus;
3. The Council, through its own resolutions, can delegate one or more powers or tasks to the Secretary General.
4. Subject to an agreement with the members, the Council may avail itself of personnel provided by the said members.
5. The Council bears responsibility for keeping the books of the Global Campus (register of members, minutes of all the statutory bodies).
6. The autonomy of academic and administrative management of the seven Regional Master Programmes remains with their respective regional governing bodies but at all times they will conduct their activities in light of the aims and values of the Global Campus.

Art. 13 - Tasks of the President

1. The President legally represents the Global Campus towards third parties and in legal acts.
2. The President will summon and chair the Assembly and the Council. He/she will supervise the proper functioning of the Global Campus, as well as the implementation of the directions enacted by the Assembly, the Council, and the Advisory Board.
3. The President can authorize the Secretary General to sign certain cooperation agreements with international and national organisations.
4. In urgent cases of necessity, under his/her responsibility, the President may adopt acts normally within the competence of the Council. Such acts will be submitted to the Council for ratification at its earliest meeting.
5. In case of absence, impediment, resignation or death of the President, his/her functions shall be temporarily taken up by the first Vice-President.

Art. 14 - Honorary President/s

The Assembly may elect one or more Honorary Presidents among persons of high moral and cultural standing. He/she may take part, as an adviser, to any meeting of the Global Campus's organs. He/she will be invited to the awarding of diplomas / opening ceremony of the regional Master's Programmes, as well as at other relevant events scheduled by the Global Campus.

Art. 15 – Secretary General

1. The Assembly will appoint the Secretary General, following a proposal submitted by the Council.
2. The Secretary General is responsible for the management of the Global Campus. In the carrying out of his or her duties, he/she is accountable to the Council. In particular, the Secretary General shall be responsible to:
 - a. hire and discharge all staff of the Global Campus based in Venice and to control and co-ordinate the activities of the Global Campus's employees;
 - b. implement the decisions taken by the Global Campus's governing bodies;
 - c. take care of the process of the deliberations of the Assembly and the Council;

- d. draft the schemes to submit to public agencies and private entities, national and international, prepare applications for grants, including those provided by the European Union;
 - e. manage the Global Campus's bank accounts;
 - f. take part in, with consultative status, and keep the records of the meetings of the Assembly and the Global Campus;
 - g. perform any other specific acts conferred to him/her by an ad hoc decision of the Council;
 - h. carry out any other ordinary administrative calling.
3. The Secretary General can receive the mandate from the President to perform specific acts involving responsibility towards third parties. Such mandate shall be drafted in front of a notary.
 4. The Secretary General will receive, for his/her functions, a salary determined, on a yearly basis, by the Council.

Art. 16 - Composition and tasks of the Advisory Board

1. The Assembly can appoint, upon proposal of the Council, an Advisory Board composed by individuals and representatives of international, regional, national, and non-governmental organisations, active in the field of human rights and democratisation. Moreover, the Assembly may appoint as members of the Advisory Board other persons of high professional standing in the areas relevant to human rights and democratisation, nominated by the members of the Global Campus.
2. The main task of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to the organs of the Global Campus as regards the contents of the education, training, and research activities, implemented by the Global Campus.
3. The Advisory Board may be convened by the Council to meet in person or through electronic means, as necessary.

Art. 17 - Space and building

The building and the related facilities made available by the Municipality of Venice (Monastery of St Nicolò and contiguous premises) and by other institutions can be used - on the conditions determined by the Council - by the participating universities for educational and research purposes in the field of human rights and democratisation.

Art. 18 - Supervisory Body (Auditor)

1. The Assembly appoints a Supervisory Body that is composed by one member to be selected among the Auditors enrolled in the Official Registry of Auditors. The Supervisory Body will serve for a term of three years, may be re-appointed once, and its member will receive for his/her function an emolument determined by the Assembly.
2. The Supervisory Body monitors compliance with legal and statutory provisions, with principles of good administration, adequacy of the organisational and administrative structure and bookkeeping. The Supervisory Body is also responsible for the financial audit of the Global Campus, unless the Assembly has appointed a Statutory Auditor.
3. The Supervisory Body will also provide periodic assessments according to legal and statutory provisions, and can proceed whenever deemed necessary or advisable to endorse measures of inspection, assessment, and control. All findings have to be recorded and written in the appropriate books.

Art. 19 – Financial statements – Books of the Global Campus

The financial year of the Global Campus begins on 1st August and closes on 31st July every year. The accounts (or financial statements), which are presented together with the accompanying reports of the Council and of the Auditors, should be subject to the approval of the Assembly within four months from the closing of the financial year.

The Global Campus, in line with Art. 15, par.1 of the Legislative Decree 117/2017 shall draft and keep the following books:

- Register of members;
- Book of meetings and decisions of the Assembly, including minutes drawn up as public acts;
- Book of meetings and decisions of the Council;
- Book of meetings of the Supervisory Body (if collegial);
- Book of meetings of the Advisory Board (if appointed).

In line with Art. 15, par 3 of the Legislative Decree 117/2017, the members of the Global Campus have the right to examine the books, by submitting a motivated request to the Council.

Art. 20 – Dismissal of officials

All officials appointed by the Assembly can be dismissed in case of violation of the statutory rules, regulations, principles or codes of professional conduct. Such decision requires the favourable vote of at least two thirds of all members of the Assembly.

Art. 21 – Dissolution of the Global Campus of Human Rights

1. In case the Global Campus is dissolved for any reason, its patrimony must be devolved to another entity of the Third Sector, following favourable opinion by the Office referred to in Art. 15, par. 1 of the Legislative Decree 117/2017 and unless differently provided by law – in line with the Assembly provisions or, in their absence, to the Foundation “Italia Sociale”.
2. to be determined by the Regional Office of the Third Sector, unless differently provided by law.
3. In order to decide on the dissolution of the Global Campus and devolving of its patrimony, the favourable vote of at least three fourths of both the members of the Assembly and the Council is required.

Art. 22 – Reference

As for what is not covered by the present Statute, the provisions of the Italian Civil Code relevant for non-profit associations, and other Italian legal rules relevant for non-profit associations are applicable.

Art. 23 – Amendments of the Statute

1. The present Statute may be amended by an absolute majority of all members of the Global Campus, provided that three fourths of all members are present.
2. Any proposed statutory amendment shall be notified in writing by the President to all members of the Assembly at least 30 days before the meeting.
3. Statutory amendments can only be adopted in the presence of a notary. The amendments will become effective with their inscription in the Registry of the Third Sector.
4. This Statute will be reviewed upon the expiry of the current financial cycle of the European Union in 2021.

5. The statutory provisions which are not immediately effective – being subject to the establishment of the Single National Registry of the Third Sector (“RUNTS”) in line with Title VI of the Legislative Decree 117/2017, shall become effective only subsequently as soon as the Registry will be set up.

The undersigned Universities:

University of Vienna; Catholic University of Leuven; University of Southern Denmark; Åbo Akademi University; Université de Strasbourg; Ruhr University Bochum; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; University College Dublin – National University of Ireland, Dublin; University of Padua; Université du Luxembourg; Maastricht University; University of Coimbra; University of Deusto, Bilbao; Panteion University, Athens; Université Libre de Bruxelles; National University of Ireland, Galway; University of Graz; University of Hamburg; Université de Montpellier; University of Nottingham; Utrecht University; University Ca’ Foscari of Venice; Queen’s University Belfast; Comenius University Bratislava; Masaryk University Brno; University of Bucharest; Eötvös Loránd University Budapest; University of Cyprus; University of Latvia; NOVA University Lisbon; University of Ljubljana; University of Malta; Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan; University of Seville; Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski; University of Tartu; Vilnius University; and University of Zagreb.