SLOW FOOD
INTERNATIONAL STATUTE

NAMES, OFFICES AND DURATION

Art. 1

Slow Food is an international, non-profit, democratic Association, working through its volunteer base to advance its social and cultural aims: to defend basic human rights, the environment and common goods, and to assert the centrality of food as an essential element of fair and sustainable development.
Slow Food envisions a world in which all people can enjoy food that is good for them, good for those who produce it and good for the planet.

Art. 2

The Association is headquartered in Bra (CN), Italy.

The Association's Executive Committee may transfer the headquarters anywhere within the municipality of Bra by means of a simple resolution.

Secondary offices, branches and representation offices may be established according to the procedures set out in this Statute.

The Association has an unlimited duration.

DEFINITION AND AIMS

Art. 3

Slow Food is a democratic international Association that pursues cultural, environmental and social goals around the central role of food. To achieve this, it proposes to create a network of local communities.
A local Slow Food community is a group of individuals who share the Association's philosophy and intend to cultivate common interests, taking the food production and consumption system as a starting point for promoting ways of life that respect people and the social, cultural and environmental context in which they live and work.

Slow Food seeks to:

a) promote everyone's right to good, clean and fair food; food that tastes good, that considers ecologically sustainable production/distribution/consumption processing methods, and that upholds social justice and of dignity of everyone involved in the food chain;
b) defend the right to food sovereignty for all peoples; to give dignity to issues connected to food, beverages, diet and gastronomic sciences as a whole; to safeguard natural and cultural biodiversity by identifying food products and production methods linked to geographic areas and by promoting their status as common goods;

c) contribute to the creation of a culture of health as a collective and public good, to be defended and protected through the adoption of balanced diets and lifestyles oriented towards quality, diversity and moderation;
d) increase awareness of the right to good, clean and fair food, and providing education, in particular for young people, on food, taste and making responsible food choices;
e) reduce food waste;
f) promote practices to support animal welfare;
g) recognize and support the important role of urban agriculture in terms of providing good, clean and fair food;
h) promote a different quality of life, based upon respect for natural rhythms, the environment and consumers' health, encouraging the consumption and enjoyment of food of the highest possible quality;
i) promote respect for the world's cultural diversity through exchange and comparison in a way that is useful to everyone, without prejudice of any kind;
j) promote ethnic and socio-economic diverse leadership and protect the rights of indigenous peoples;

k) implement and increase the value of local economic models of food production;
l) recover, document and re-introduce local memory and traditional knowledge linked to the food world;
m) develop the Terra Madre network at a global level;
n) contribute to the development of the Association's international network;
o) implement international development projects aimed at promoting the right to good, clean and fair food, with particular reference to developing countries;
p) direct the public's attention towards environmental issues and in particular towards the safeguarding of biodiversity and culinary traditions;
q) work to protect the environment, defend landscapes, and fight climate change, emphasizing the connection between food production, consumption and associated environmental costs;

Examples of how Slow Food will achieve these aims include but are not limited to:

a) coordinating and implementing research, cataloguing and promoting projects for the safeguarding of food biodiversity; fighting the growing standardization of food; promoting, organizing and/or participating in projects for the development of ecological forms of agriculture;
b) promoting or supporting initiatives that aim to preserve and add value to the historical and cultural identity of a specific geographical area linked to a specific food, particularly through the creation of Presidia to protect biodiversity;
c) developing a network of relationships, activities and initiatives at a local and international level with and among food communities, formed of all the people and entities working in the food production and processing sector;
d) organizing and coordinating awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy activities;
e) organizing events and communication campaigns;
f) encouraging awareness and use of local products through initiatives that favour the shortening of the distribution chain, a direct relationship between producer and co-producer and the organization of food and wine tourism initiatives;
g) promoting, organizing, running and participating in educational activities within schools and universities, through research projects, coordination, training and refresher courses, aimed at a comprehensive application of the right to health education, to sensory and taste education and to the development of an appropriate food culture;
h) promoting and organizing educational exchanges;
i) promoting and organizing food culture and sensory education programs for Slow Food members, the general public and those employed in the food and beverage sector, in order to raise awareness about the historical roots and production processes of all food production sectors;
j) encouraging and implementing initiatives to improve everyday food, including food served in canteens;
k) promoting the work of people inside or outside of the Association who have contributed to the furthering of these aims, by awarding prizes and grants, publicizing their achievements and other appropriate means;
l) encouraging the creation and promotion of networks for specific interests, target groups and geographic areas within the movement;

To achieve these aims, Slow Food may work at an international or national level in public or private bodies, attend forums, promote other groups, affiliate itself with producers and those working in the sector and directly manage initiatives, including business ventures, which it deems useful for the attainment of its social objectives. It may promote and/or support foundations, think tanks, publishing and promotional initiatives, undertaking any activity that does not conflict with the principles of the Association.

To this end, Slow Food seeks to raise the financial resources necessary to ensure the activities of the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity (whose primary task is to fund the Presidia and other international projects aimed at shortening the distribution chain with a particular focus in the developing countries) and the Terra Madre Foundation (created principally to encourage and develop the global network of food communities and the integration of established science with traditional knowledge). Slow Food is the founder of both of these foundations.

Additionally, Slow Food seeks to ensure the continued activities and optimal development of the University of Gastronomic Sciences, of which it is also the founder. The university contributes to encouraging research and the spread and development of good, clean and fair food models.

Slow Food, through its Executive Committee, seeks to ensure the coordination of these entities both among themselves and with every other entity anywhere in the world that has equivalent and shared aims.

MEMBERS

Art. 4

Slow Food Association members are individuals who have requested to become members, who accept the rules of this Statute and all its appendices and are up-to-date with the payment of the membership fee. Where national, regional, macro-regional or other recognized organizational structure/s exists their Statute/s must also be accepted.

The membership request can be refused by the executive bodies resulting from any behaviour in conflict with the statutory aims.

The process for requesting a membership and payment of the membership fee, any variations in the membership fee, information on which of the Association's bodies can accept or refuse an application and the refusal procedure, as well as every other condition relative to membership, are specified in the Slow Food Membership Regulations attached to this Statute.

Under the terms of this Statute, Slow Food members have the right to:

a) vote for or to be elected to any of the Association bodies according to the principle of a single vote and in accordance with the Congress Regulation that defines the voting procedures at different associative levels;
b) approve the balance sheet;
c) participate in the Association's assemblies and all its activities;
d) propose documents of general interest to all organizational and institutional levels.

Other associations or entities can join the Association as affiliates, by the means established in the Slow Food Membership Regulations. They will have the right to participate in the activities of the Association, expressly excluding the right to vote.

National, regional and macro-regional branches and other recognized organizational structures can, in agreement with the Executive Committee, establish special forms of Association membership with the aim of including different target groups based on different levels of involvement, as long as the principles stated above and the Slow Food Membership Regulations are respected.

The membership fee is not transferable, cannot be revalued and is not refundable.

Art. 5

Membership and affiliate status is lost by:

a) failure to pay the membership fee;
b) failure to pay/renew the affiliation fee (or by the affiliate giving specific notice of cancellation);
c) expulsion on serious grounds; for example, behaviour or activities in clear conflict with the principles or the aims of the Association, to be decided by the Executive Committee, the National Associations, or regional and macro-regional branches and other recognized organizational structures where existing. An appeal against such an expulsion may be lodged with the Board of Appeals.

Verification of the payment of the membership or affiliation fee must be in accordance with the Slow Food Membership Regulations.

The dissolution of a Community or a National Association does not determine the revocation of membership for the members of that Community or National Association.

INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS

Art. 6

The organizational and management levels of the Association are:

a) Congress;
b) Governing Board, composed of:
   1) President
   2) Executive Committee

3) Council
4) General Secretary

e) National, regional and macro-regional branches or other recognized organizational structures;
d) Community (or other name used in individual countries).

CONGRESS

Art. 7

The Congress will be attended by all the delegates elected by members in geographic regions in accordance with the standard representation criteria established by the Council, with the aim of guaranteeing that all members can participate democratically in the life of the Association, in social decisions and in the election of executive bodies.

Participation in the Congress may be in person or by proxy of another member, according to the rules defined in the Congress Regulation, approved by the International Council.

The Congress is Slow Food's highest deliberative body and is held every four years, following specific regulations prepared for every individual Congress, with the aim of fulfilling the Congress' institutional tasks as listed below.

In case of necessity, the Executive Committee can convene the Extraordinary Congress.

The Congress has the following functions:

a) discussing, defining and approving the Association's policies and program of activities;
b) sharing the social report;
c) electing the governing bodies as stated in this Statute;
d) electing the Board of Auditors and the Board of Appeals;
e) approving any changes to the Statute, including the modification of the Association's headquarters and the dissolution or liquidation of the Association itself.

The Congress can be convened by the Executive Committee in any part of the world. The announcement must be sent in writing via mail or email or any other useful means with guaranteed receipt, with at least two months notice, and must contain the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting.

The Congress Regulations must be communicated by the Executive Committee prior to the convening of the Congress.

Decisions are taken based on the majority of votes, and at least half the members with voting rights must be present. In cases of the modification of the Association's headquarters, the dissolution, liquidation or transfer of the Association's assets, as well as any other modification to this Statute of the same, a consensus of 80 percent of those who have the right to vote is required.

GOVERNING BOARD

Art. 8

The Governing Board is composed of the bodies that have the task of making decisions, creating consensus and running the Association.

The Governing Board is composed of:

a) President
b) Executive Committee
c) Council
d) General Secretary

The Governing Board's office-holders remain in office for four years or until the nomination/election of new office-holders.

PRESIDENT

Art. 9

The President is elected by the Congress and remains in office until the subsequent Congress. The President is the general legal representative for Slow Food in court and in dealings with third parties.

The President has the following functions:

a) serves as member by right, convener and chair of the Executive Committee;
b) proposes to the Congress the candidates to be elected to the Executive Committee;
c) proposes to the Council possible replacements for members of the Executive Committee who for whatever reason have ceased to carry out their functions;
d) proposes a nomination for the role of Secretary General to the Executive Committee;
e) monitors the normal functioning of the bodies of the Governing Board;
f) exercises the tasks of external representation and relations pertaining to the President's functions;
g) participates in the meetings of every National Association or other recognized organizational structure, in person or through a representative;
h) participates by right in all the Congresses or other recognized organizational structures, in person or through a representative;
i) proposes a nomination for the role of Treasurer to the Council.

The President has the power to nominate one or more Vice Presidents among the members of the Executive Committee. The President also nominates a Deputy from among the members of the Executive Committee, who will automatically assume the President's powers in case of sudden and serious impediment.

The President may delegate the General Secretary or other members of the Executive Committee to manage some of the President's functions in the name of and on behalf of the Association.

In the case of urgent necessity the President may exercise the powers of the Council, subject to ratification at the first possible meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Art. 10

The Executive Committee is the operational body that implements the decisions of the Council and is invested with the widest powers for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Association. These powers can be delegated entirely or in part to the President, the General Secretary or other indicated members of the Executive Committee. It is composed of the President, and the members elected by the Congress.

The Executive Committee remains in office for the intervening years between one Congress and the next.

If for any reason one of the elected members of the Executive Committee can no longer serve, the President will recommend a replacement candidate to the Council.

The Executive Committee can be convened by the President or by the President's delegate. The announcement must be sent in writing via mail or electronic mail or any other useful means with guaranteed receipt, with at least seven days notice, and must contain the agenda. In the case of justifiable urgency, the notice period can be one day.

The Executive Committee makes decisions based on the majority of those present. In the case of a tie the vote of the President prevails.

Whenever necessary, the Executive Committee can meet and deliberate via video or telephone conference or via electronic mail, or any other useful means, as long as all the members have the possibility of participating in the discussions and decision-making process.

Art. 11

The Executive Committee has the following functions:

a) overseeing the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Association;
b) planning, programing and evaluating the administrative structure of the Association with particular attention to the organization, and management of human resources, accounting and auditing;
c) preparing the estimate and final balance sheets and, if necessary, the aggregate balance sheet and the social report;
d) nominating, and dismissing the Secretary General based on the President's proposal;
e) deliberating the annual and four-year activity plans and estimated balance sheets;
f) establishing the affiliation and association models that consider specific geographical, social, economical, linguistic circumstances, or those referring to specific targets;
g) reviewing the activities and decisions taken by the National Associations and other recognized organizational structures to ensure compliance with the Association's policies, with all the authority granted by this Statute;
h) proposing to the Council the establishment of new organizational structures, national, regional and macro-regional branches and other recognized organizational structures;
i) regulating, through the appropriate protocol, on an annual basis, the operational procedures and relationship with the national, regional and macro-regional branches and other recognized organizational structures;
j) proposing to the Council the dissolution of National Associations or other recognized organizational structures if their existence is no longer justified by their activities and the Association's development;
k) authorizing the establishment of forms of organization between the Communities that render their Association activities more effective;
l) keeping the various organizational bodies informed about the Association's strategic aims, main initiatives and communication campaigns;
m) convening the Council;
n) requesting that the Council appoint certain members of the Council, according to the provisions of this Statute;
o) convening the ordinary Congress and, in case of necessity, the Extraordinary Congress;
p) proposing the appointment of representatives of the Association to public and private bodies and institutions to which the Association belongs or to which it has the right to do so;
q) deliberating the removal from office of any local, national or international representatives (where there is no national association or any other recognized structure), in the event that he or she is not performing his or her duties or is organizing and running activities considered by the Executive Committee to be damaging to, incompatible with or in opposition to the Association's aims; or that is not complying with the payment of dues both personal or related to the structure he represents;
r) deliberating the closure of inactive Communities, or the dissolution of Communities with just cause, where it is not the responsibility of other recognized organizational structures;
s) inviting representatives from the Association to the Council to discuss issues within their expertise or of specific interest to them; these invited representatives may express non-binding opinions;
t) approving the regulations necessary for the correct management and administration of the Association's activities;
u) approving regulations and protocols for the functioning of the Association's local, national and international bodies and activities;
v) monitoring and protecting the use of the trademark inside and outside the Association.

Executive Committee members take part in the Congresses of the national, regional and macro-regional branches and other recognized organizational structures branches, where existing, on the recommendation of the President.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Art. 12

The General Secretary is elected by the Executive Committee based on the proposal of the President.

The Association's General Secretary has the following functions:

a) overseeing the execution of the decisions of the Executive Committee;
b) being responsible for the operational management of the Association;

c) preparing documents for the Executive Committee.

The General Secretary may be assigned the authority to represent the Association in relation to specific subjects by the President or at the request of the Executive Committee.
In cases of necessity and in agreement with the President, the General Secretary can exercise the powers of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification at the first possible meeting.

COUNCIL

Art. 13

The Council is the Association's policy-directing body and serves as the Association's general political representative.

The Council is elected by the Congress according to the procedures defined in the Congress Regulations.

The composition must ensure representation of geographic areas, the number of members, the Terra Madre network and particularly significant target groups, such as young people or indigenous peoples.

The Council also includes one representative member each from the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity and the University of Gastronomic Sciences.

The members of the Executive Committee are by right also members of the Council.

The President of the Board of Auditors and the President of the Board of Appeals are invited by right to Council meetings.

Upon the request of the Executive Committee, during the four years of its mandate, the Council has the authority to accept new members, as long as they do not exceed 30 percent of its initial members, to guarantee the representation of new Association branches or existing branches that have grown significantly. In such cases, the limits of proportionality between nations or geographic areas or quotas reserved for Food and Learning Communities will not be taken into account.

Art. 14

The Council is convened by the Executive Committee at least once a year for the approval of the annual final balance sheet. The announcement must be sent in writing via mail or electronic mail or any other useful means with guaranteed receipt, with at least 30 days notice, and must contain the date, place and agenda of the meeting.

The Council can also be convened whenever it is deemed necessary or when at least a tenth of the Association's members make a justifiable request.

Art. 15

The Council has the following functions:
a) applying the decisions made by the Congress; defining the Association's choices and strategies;
b) creating advisory bodies and approving their regulations;
c) on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, making decisions regarding other intermediary organizational structures or the dissolution of those already existing;
d) discussing and approving the Association's work program;
e) approving the final annual balance sheet prepared by the Executive Committee;
f) nominating and overturning, based on the President's proposal, the Treasurer, who supervises the correct financial management of the Association;
g) approving the Congress Regulations;
h) temporarily replacing any members who have lost their position or resigned, to safeguard the continued functioning of the Council.

Decisions are taken based on the majority of votes, as long as at least half the Councilors are present.

When necessary, the Council can meet and deliberate via video or telephone conference or via electronic mail or with any other suitable means, as long as all the Councilors have the possibility of participating in the discussions and decision-making process.

Any Councilors who also sit on the Executive Committee cannot participate in deliberations regarding the annual final balance sheet and their own responsibilities.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Art. 16

The National Association is the representative and coordinating body for all the members and all the basic organizational structures of the international Association present in a single country.

It is established when the Slow Food members within an individual country have formed a national association or a similar non-profit organization, with the aims of:

a) improving the relationships with and between the Communities and providing the Community Leaders with the tools, the encouragement and the motivation necessary to grow the Association;
b) developing a strategy and an action plan of national scope—including campaigns, initiatives, events and other activities—with the aim of making the Association known, recognized and respected in the area and reinforcing the Association's political demands at a national level;
c) supporting Slow Food at a political and financial level. Political support means contributing ideas and participating actively in the international Association's decision-making processes.

In absence of one or more of the three above-mentioned rules, the National Association cannot be established, or should it exist, will be revoked.

The establishment of new National Associations, based on the request of the majority of active Communities, is decided by the Council. The Council also has the right to suspend or dissolve existing National Associations.

The establishment of a National Association can be provisionally authorized by the Executive Committee on the basis of the presentation of a strategic, political and economic development plan.

Art. 17

The relationship between a National Association and the Governing Board is regulated by this Statute, the relevant national Statute and a specific protocol prepared by the Executive Committee regulating the relationship between the two bodies, which is renewed annually.

This protocol also regulates the National Association's permission to use the national Slow Food trademark according the terms defined by the Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks.

In the absence of a signed protocol, the National Association will cease to exist.

Art. 18

The National Association has the following functions:

a) implementing the resolutions of the Congresses and the decisions of international executive bodies to ensure the harmonious development of the Association in the country represented;
b) coordinating and organizing national activities in agreement with individual national Statutes, and defining the procedures for joining the National Association in agreement with the Executive Committee and in accordance with the Slow Food Membership Regulations;
c) keeping its Communities informed about the international Association's strategic aims, main initiatives and national campaigns;
d) supporting and directing the activities and initiatives of the Communities, including providing operational support tools;

e) authorizing the establishment of new Communities and determining the closure of inactive Communities or the dissolution of Communities with just cause;
f) establishing relationships and collaborations with public bodies, associations, non-governmental organizations, consortia, producer associations and communication media, in order to contribute to the development of the Association's policies and awareness of quality food production;
g) setting up a National Ark Commission and, if necessary, other advisory committees, made up of experts with the task of proposing policies, programs and initiatives relating to the international Association's projects;
h) modifying the regulations of the national Statutes that govern the functioning and administration of the structures themselves in accordance with this Statute;
i) monitoring the use of Slow Food trademarks in their own country and promptly informing the Executive Committee of cases of incorrect use;
j) supporting the development of the international Association through its own financial resources;
k) sending the balance sheets for the current financial year and the one following to the Executive Committee on an annual basis;
l) sending the membership data for all new members and each new Community to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis, consistent with national privacy laws;
m) allocating financial resources for the participation of national representatives in Slow Food activities and for executives to participate in activities or meetings in their own country;
n) expelling members from the association for serious reasons such as behaviour or actions in contrast with the aims of the Association.

Each National Association has the right to a share of the membership fee to finance its activities, to be defined in agreement with the Executive Committee, and based on the Slow Food Membership Regulations.

NATIONAL STATUTES

Art. 19

While respecting individual national regulations, the national Statute must also expressly provide for:
a) the exact nature of the National Association (or similar body constituted at different levels) as the local organizational structure of the Slow Food Association, so if an individual new member belongs to the National Association, that presupposes their membership of the international Association;
b) conformity of the national Statute with this Statute and its appendices (Slow Food Manifesto, Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks and Slow Food Membership Regulations);
c) the definition of the relationship between the National Association and the Communities;
d) a National Congress to be held at least every four years for the election of the executive bodies;
e) the means of identifying candidates to represent the National Association in the executive bodies;
f) the presence of the President of Slow Food or their representative within the national governing body;
g) the identification of one or more administrative bodies and the determination of the representative powers of the bodies themselves, as well as the non-transferability onto the international Association of any obligation assumed by the national executive bodies, with the exception only of specific and documented exceptions originating from the Executive Committee.

REGIONAL, MACRO-REGIONAL AND OTHER-LEVEL DIRECTIONS

Art.20

The Executive Committee can constitute intermediary forms of organization on the basis of geographic, thematic or target group criteria or any other specific requirement. These organizational forms must respect all of the criteria for National Associations and are subject to the same regulations.

The formalization of the institution of such organizational forms must be ratified at the first possible Council meeting.

COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY LEADERS, COMMUNITY COMMITTEES, MEMBERS' ASSEMBLY AND COMMUNITY CONGRESS

Art. 21

The Community (or alternative name used in individual countries) is the Association's basic organizational structure within which members carry out the Association activities.
Each Community has the right to a percentage of the annual membership fee paid by its members, for every kind of membership and in every country in which the Slow Food Association is active, under the terms and conditions stated in the Slow Food Membership Regulations.

If there is no active local Community, or for other justified reasons, the Executive Committee or the National Association, where existing, will decide on an alternative destination for the aforementioned percentage of the membership fee.

Art. 22

To establish a Community, the founding committee must make a request to the national or regional and macro-regional Directors and/or other recognized organizational structures where existing, or if none exist directly to the Executive Committee. This request must be supported by a candidacy dossier, based on a model provided by the Executive Committee.

The Community must guarantee a minimum of 20 (twenty) members or as the national association advises. Any exceptions or modifications can be authorized by the national or regional Board of Directors, where existing, or by the Executive Committee.

Art. 23

The Community has the following functions, within local and national Association limits:

a) promoting the Association's philosophy and finding new supporting members;
b) developing the Terra Madre network and Food Communities within its local area;
c) developing the organized presence of the Association;
d) developing and promoting food education projects;
e) developing and promoting projects to protect local food-producing communities;
f) establishing relationships and collaborations with public bodies, protective consortia and producer associations, to help develop and raise awareness about food production;
g) collaborating with other associations or entities for the protection of the environment and respect for nature, a necessary condition for the safeguarding of our gastronomic heritage, and for the defence and promotion of diverse forms of folk culture and local history;
h) maintaining relationships with other Communities;
i) developing fundraising activities to support its own projects and the Association's projects at a regional, transregional, national and international level;
j) constituting, where possible, an advisory committee formed of experts with the task of providing opinions and suggestions on the initiatives to be undertaken.

Art. 24

The Community is run by a Community Committee, formed of no less than five people, elected by the Community Congress or by the Assembly of Community Members. The Committee remains in office for four years and may be re-elected.

The Community Committee is responsible for the use of the Association's trademark in its local area, according to what is set out in this Statute and in the attached Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks.

The Community Committee has the following functions in agreement with the national legislations:

a) electing from within itself the Community Leader/Co-leaders, and if necessary expelling him or her;
b) defining within itself the roles useful for the organization and management of activities;
c) planning the Community's activities;
d) preparing a financial statement;

e) convening the Assembly of Members whenever necessary, and at least once a year to deliberate the annual statement;
f) preparing the internal rules and regulations most appropriate to the Community's functioning and administration;
g) overseeing the holding of statutory books and particularly the list of members;
h) coordinating its management activities with the directives and regulations issued by the national/regional Board of Directors, where existing, or the Executive Committee;
i) monitoring the use of the Slow Food trademarks in its own area and promptly informing the competent bodies of cases of incorrect use;
j) identifying replacements for outgoing members of the Community Committee and putting them forward for approval by the Assembly of Members, usually within six months of their resignation;
k) organizing Association activities in the local area (at least three initiatives a year) and promoting Association membership;
l) managing relationships with public bodies, institutions, media and producers in the relevant local area;
m) convening the Community Congress, whenever it is necessary - at least every four years;
n) promoting and implementing all the initiatives that characterize the Association proposed by the national or international executive bodies and which, in some cases, could be indicated as being binding and compulsory.

The Community Committee meets:

a) any time the Community Leader believes it necessary, or if at least a third of its members (a minimum of two) have requested it;
b) at least three times a year, including one meeting to deliberate the Community's financial statement.

The Committee is convened by the Community Leader/Co-leaders by announcement or communication, usually to be made at least three days before the day of the meeting.

A majority of the members must be present for the deliberations to be valid. Decisions are made based on the vote of the majority of those present at the meeting. The Committee is chaired by the Community Leader/Co-leaders. Minutes will be taken at the meeting and signed by those present.

The Community Congress is convened by the Community Committee with the same convocation procedure as the Members' Assembly and elects the Community Committee with simple majority vote.

Art. 25

The Community can assume an autonomous legal identity, following authorization from the national/regional Board of Directors, where existing, or the Executive Committee, in compliance with the legislative regulations of the country in which it is constituted.

Art. 26

The Community Leader(s) represents the Association in the relevant local area and coordinates the Community Committee's activities.

The Community Leader(s) has the authorization to sign the deliberations of the Community Committee. For activities not specifically relating to the Association or which relate to areas outside the Community's local area, the Community Leader must obtain approval from the National/Regional Board of Directors, where existing, or the Executive Committee.

The Community Leader is elected by the Community Committee from among its members. This appointment must be ratified by the National/Regional Board of Directors, where existing, or the Executive Committee.

The Community Leader has the following tasks:

a) chairing the Community Committee
b) convening meetings of the Community Committee

Art. 27

The Assembly of Members is constituted by all those registered with the Community who have paid the Association membership fee. It is convened at least once a year by the Community Committee, with an announcement to all the members, containing the agenda, usually at least seven days before the date of the meeting.

An extraordinary Assembly can be convened if at least a third of the members make a justified request.

The Assembly is validly constituted whatever the number of members present, and decisions are made based on a simple majority of those present.

The Assembly makes decisions about:

a) the direction and general policies of the Community
b) the appointment or dismissal of members of the Community Committee
c) the financial statement

All the members have equal rights to vote or to be elected according to the principle of a single vote. Voting can be done by raising a hand or by secret ballot on the request of the majority of those present at the Assembly.

Art. 28

The Executive Committee can make specific exceptions to this section.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BODIES

Art. 29

The Council may create international advisory bodies.

Their task is to study, develop and propose policies and strategies relating to specific issues of interest to the Association, in such a way as to ensure their harmonious management in every local regional, transregional, national or supranational context.

Their composition, operating procedures and tasks are defined by the President.

Art. 30

The International Ark Commission is an international advisory body.

The National Commissions of the Ark and the Presidia, where existing, conform to the proposals and directives of their respective International Commissions according to the regulations approved by the Council.

BOARD OF AUDITORS AND BOARD OF APPEALS

Art. 31

The bodies of guarantee and control are:
a) the Board of Auditors
b) the Board of Appeals

The members of both bodies are elected by the Congress and remain in office until the next Congress.

Decisions are made based on a simple majority, if necessary via electronic mail or any other useful means.

Art. 32

The Board of Auditors is nominated by the Congress from among Association members who are not members of any international, national, regional or macro-regional directions or any other organizational structures. It is made up of three permanent members and two substitutes. A President is elected from among its members and is permanently invited to meetings of the Council.

The Board of Auditors has the task of verifying that:

a) the law, the Statute and the principles of correct administration are observed by the association's governing bodies;
b) accounts are being kept correctly;
c) the balance sheets and the written accounts correspond to the relevant events.

The Board of Auditors gives its opinion on the Association's budget and final balance sheets.

Art. 33

The Board of Appeals is the body of statutory guarantee and internal jurisdiction.

It is elected by the Congress. It examines any matters submitted to it by any of the Association's executive bodies, structures or individual members. Following due investigation it will make a decision and within 60 days issue a written ruling containing the reasons for the decision.

It is made up of a maximum of five members. A President is elected from among its members and is permanently invited to meetings of the Council.

Art. 34

All the Association's positions are carried out with honorary titles.

Slow Food executives at all levels must adapt their behaviour and their initiatives, within the ambit of the Association, in order to guarantee that their own interests are not privileged, in connection with financial and professional activities, and that they are not obtaining personal benefits.

The National Association or the Executive Committee have the task of monitoring and verifying any eventual incompatibilities and taking any consequent decisions.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Art. 35

The website www.slowfood.com is the site of the international Slow Food Association. All the websites of national branches, Communities or other local Slow Food structures must include a link on their home page to www.slowfood.com. Documents and materials relevant to the Association will be published annually.

ASSETS AND RESOURCES

Art. 36

The assets of Slow Food are made up of:

a) the initial endowment fund, which cannot be disposed of, determined during the drawing up of the Statute;
b) moveable and immoveable goods, property values and contributions which arrive at the Association from public or private parties for any reason, which are expressly allocated to increase the assets;
c) credits arising from the previous items, which are regarded as being allocated to increase the assets;
d) sums deriving from unused revenues which the Council decides to allocate to increase the assets.

All of the income available to the Association for carrying out its purposes comes from:

a) membership fees;
b) revenue or profit deriving from its assets or economic activities, including secondary commercial activities;
c) donations or contributions from public and private parties that are not expressly allocated to increase the assets.

The assets, contributions and donations from public and private parties have the aim of guaranteeing the functioning of the Association, the realization of its aims and the coverage of any deficits in running costs.

Any surplus in the running costs must be entirely allocated to the furthering of the Association's institutional aims.

The distribution, whether direct of indirect, of running cost surpluses, funds, reserves of running cost surpluses or capital during the life of the Association is forbidden, unless in cases where allocation or distribution is required by law.

TRADEMARK

Art. 37

The name and trademark of the Association may be used only according to the procedures set out in this Statute and in the attached Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks. The Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks is an integral part of this Statute and Slow Food members, Communities, and National Associations must observe it in full.

Any modifications to the Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks must be decided upon by the Council (or the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the Council at the first successive meeting) and will be effective immediately without need for approval from the Congress.

ACCOUNTING PERIOD, ACCOUNTING, BUDGET AND SOCIAL REPORT

Art. 38

The accounting period lasts from January 1 of the year in which the Congress is held until December 31 of the year prior to the successive Congress and is broken into annual administrative periods of 12 months, from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

The Executive Committee is responsible for setting up an accounting system aimed at representing completely and analytically the operations carried out in each financial period.

A final balance sheet must be must be prepared for each accounting period. It must include supplementary notes and a report on the management of the Association, accurately representing the Association's assets, economic situation and finances.

An estimated balance sheet must also be prepared for each administrative period, in conformity with the Association's planned activities.

DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Art. 39

Except for legal reasons, the dissolution of the Association is decided by an Extraordinary Congress, convened by the means established in this Statute, to verify the conditions for the dissolution. It will nominate one or more liquidators and will define the procedure for the devolution of any assets to entities that pursue aims similar to those of the Association, following consultation with the control body referred to in Article 3, Sub-section 190, L.662/1996 and with the exception of different destinations imposed by the law.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Art. 40

The executive bodies of the Association are not responsible for liabilities incurred by members or national, regional or local structures, which are solely answerable for their own funds and to their own executive bodies.

Minutes duly signed by the elected President and Secretary must be written up for every meeting of the executive bodies.

Art. 41

The following attachments are an integral part of this Statute:

a) The Slow Food Manifesto
b) Code of Use for Slow Food Trademarks
c) Slow Food Membership Regulations

Art. 42

For anything not expressly set out in this Statute, reference should be made to the current relevant legislation in Italy.

Art. 43

The reference language for this Statute is Italian.