



KOLPING INTERNATIONAL International Constitution

I. Fundamental Principles

Article 1

Self-Image and Structure

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, an Association founded and shaped in the 19th century by Adolph Kolping, is a Catholic, global, family-like and guiding community promoting companionship, education and action. This membership organization consists of local Kolping Families who are joined together in Diocesan and National Associations as well as Continental Associations.

Article 2

Name and Seat

1. The name of this Association shall be "KOLPING INTERNATIONAL".
2. The official seat of the Association is Cologne, Germany, where Adolph Kolping lived and worked, and where he was laid to rest in the Minorite Church.

Article 3

Objectives and Functions

In accordance with its Self-Image and Program, the Association wants to enable its members to be actively engaged as Christians in the world and therefore at work, in marriage and family, at Church, in society and state; to offer its members and society opportunities and assistance in all aspects of life; to promote the common good in the Christian sense through activities of its individual members and their groupings, and to play a part in the continuous renewal and humanization of society.

Article 4

Symbol of Unity

The common emblem of the Association shall be the "Kolping-K" in black and orange.

Article 5

Financing

The financial resources of the Association shall be obtained from membership dues and other income.



Article 6

Name, Constitutions and Activities of Kolping Legal Entities and Facilities

1. The use of the Kolping name of all Kolping legal entities, Kolping facilities and Kolping enterprises is categorically subject to approval. The respective jurisdiction rests with the International Executive Board. After a National Association has been founded, the International Executive Board may delegate its rights to the National Association, which will deal with this matter accordingly.
2. The International Executive Board or the National Association and the channels designated for this purpose respectively, have the right to withdraw their consent for Kolping legal entities, Kolping facilities and Kolping enterprises to use the Kolping name, if their work is grossly detrimental to the nature, objective, and reputation of the Association or the name "Kolping".
3. All constitutions or statutes of Kolping legal entities within KOLPING INTERNATIONAL require the approval of the International Executive Board. After a National Association has been founded, the International Executive Board may delegate its rights to the National Association, which will deal with this matter accordingly. The same applies to changes in the constitutions or statutes. The constitutions or statutes must neither violate the program and the constitutions of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL nor declare them as inapplicable.
4. This does not imply that any legal liability transfers to KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and/or the respective National Association.
5. The purchase of land, buildings and equivalent rights by the local Kolping Family, or its legal entity, as well as the sale or negotiation of all or the larger part of its assets are subject to written consent from the International Executive Board. This also applies to new building or renovation projects, and to loans other than initial mortgages. In all cases, approval is subject to the presentation of detailed building plans and financing plans.
6. After a National Association has been founded, the International Executive Board may delegate its rights to the National Association. Approval or rejection do not constitute a reason for the National Association or the International Executive Board to be liable for damages.
7. The National Associations are obliged to stipulate further rules concerning the examination and the control of activities of Kolping groupings or their legal entities with consideration to relevant laws.
8. To be a member of the bodies or boards of a legal entity of the Association, membership in KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is mandatory. The loss of membership shall automatically result in the loss of the mandate on the respective body or board. Any deviations from this rule require the approval of the International Executive Committee or the National Association.

II. Membership

Article 7 Admission

1. Any natural person who is willing to adhere to the objectives of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and prepared to implement the same can become a member.
2. As a rule, one usually becomes a member of the local Kolping Family.
3. The executive committee of the local Kolping Family decides on the admission of new members.
4. Where affiliation to a local Kolping Family is not possible, individuals can apply to the National Association for membership.
5. Membership automatically bestows membership in KOLPING INTERNATIONAL.

Article 8 Rights and Duties of Members

1. Members have the right
 - to vote in accordance with the relevant articles of the constitution or statutes,
 - to participate in all membership events and activities to the extent possible.
2. Members have the duty
 - to support the activities of the Association in all its established groupings,
 - to contribute actively towards the implementation of its program and
 - to make contributions as determined by the appropriate bodies.

Article 9 Kolping Youth

The members up to and including an age determined by the National Association form the Kolping Youth.

Article 10 Termination of Membership

Membership is terminated by death, by voluntary resignation, or by expulsion.

Article 11 Voluntary Resignation

Members who wish to resign from being a member of the Association must fulfill their financial obligations prior to resignation. A resignation takes effect with the endorsement of the resignation by the local executive committee.

Article 12

Expulsion

1. A member who has verifiably violated his/her duties, as set forth in Article 8, may be expelled. He/she can be expelled also for a compelling reason or when the member has grossly damaged the reputation of the Association or the name of "Kolping".
2. Expulsion may be brought into effect by:
 1. the executive committee of the local Kolping Family,
 2. entities established for this purpose by the National Association,
 3. the International Executive Board.
3. A member must be notified of the intended expulsion in writing, stating the reasons for such action. He/she has the right to appeal within one month in accordance with Article 20. Expulsion requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the respective committee. In every instance, the relevant executive committee must hear the case first.

III. Kolping Family

Article 13

Founding

1. The founding of a Kolping Family becomes official upon being presented with the Founding Certificate, which formally effects the incorporation into the Association. The Founding Certificate is issued by the National Association. For countries without a National Association, this certificate is issued by the General Praeses.
2. The admission of a new Kolping Family is conditional upon the acceptance of the local statutes or bylaws by the National Association. In countries without a National Association, the statutes or bylaws are examined and accepted by the International Executive Board.
3. The statutes or bylaws of a Kolping Family shall not contradict national law.

Article 14

Kolping Families without a National Association

In countries without a National Association, Kolping Families are under the direct supervision of the General Praeses.

Article 15

Governing Bodies

A Kolping Family consists of at least

- the Membership Meeting,
- the governing body (e.g. the executive committee).

Article 16
Membership Meeting

1. The Membership Meeting, which must take place at least once a year, is the highest decision-making body of the Kolping Family. The Membership Meeting consists of all members of a given Kolping Family. Details regarding the right to vote are regulated by the local statutes or bylaws.
2. The functions of the Membership Meeting specifically include
 - composing and electing the executive committee
 - determining the contribution made to the association
 - adopting the annual financial statements
 - approving the actions of the governing body
 - determining the orientation and priorities for the work to be undertaken.

Article 17
Kolping Family Management

1. Every Kolping Family has an executive committee, which acts in accordance with the decisions made by the Membership Meeting as well as on the basis of the programmatic objectives and the decisions of the superior bodies.
2. The executive committee deliberates and decides on the affairs of the Kolping Family, which are not expressly reserved for the Membership Meeting.
3. The members of the executive committee are chosen by secret ballot. They shall have a strong identification with the objectives and functions of the Association. They fulfill their functions in collective responsibility.

Article 18
President

1. The Membership Meeting may elect a President. All votes are cast in secret. Re-election is possible.
2. The President represents the Kolping Family in internal and external affairs. He/she is responsible specifically for implementing the executive committee's decisions and for convening and chairing the meetings and the Membership Meeting.

Article 19
Praeses/Spiritual Director

1. The Membership Meeting of the Kolping Family elects a Praeses and/or a Spiritual Director. In conjunction with the governing body he/she has a special responsibility to provide pastoral ministry in the Kolping Family. With the acceptance of the election, he/she becomes a member of the Kolping Family and the executive committee. Further details are regulated by the National Associations independently.
2. The applicable Church rules and regulations shall be followed.

Article 20 Mediation

In the event of an appeal under the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 3, and in all cases of serious disagreement, the parties concerned have the right to appeal to the bodies appointed by the National Association for this purpose. The International Executive Board has jurisdiction for appeals from Kolping Families without a National Association. In all mediation procedures, both parties must be heard. The ruling of the ultimate arbitrating body is binding on all parties.

Article 21 Dissolution

1. A Kolping Family can be dissolved by a resolution passed by the Membership Meeting. The details are regulated by the National Association or - for Kolping Families without a National Association - by the International Executive Board.
2. If a Kolping Family fails to fulfill its duties towards the Association, or violates its objectives and functions, or if the prerequisites for an orderly community no longer prevail, the International Executive Board or the National Association respectively, may dissolve such a Kolping Family. In all cases, the executive committee of the Kolping Family in question must be heard first.
3. Archives and assets of the Kolping Family are safeguarded as prescribed by the National Association or - for Kolping Families without a National Association - according to the directives given by the International Executive Board.

IV. National Association

Article 22 Constitution

If at least fifteen Kolping Families exist in a sovereign country and submit an application, the International Executive Board may authorize the establishment of a new National Association and approve the corresponding National Constitution. Amendments to a National Constitution require the approval of the International Executive Board.

Article 23 Functions

1. The function of the National Association is the implementation of the program of the Association on the basis of the particular social, economic, political and church conditions in the respective country.
2. This means in particular:
 - coordinating the activities of its groupings,
 - encouraging communication and cooperation between its various groupings,
 - initiating and publishing statements and declarations,

- developing and producing publications of the Association,
- identifying and developing human and financial resources to promote the work of the Association
- organizing leadership training seminars,
- representing the Association at outside functions.

Article 24 Rights and Duties

Within the framework of the Program, the Self-Image and the International Constitution of the Association, the National Association has the following rights and duties:

- to ratify a National Constitution,
- to decide on a program appropriate to existing conditions and to implement it,
- to develop regional levels of organization as conditions may require,
- to integrate the Kolping Youth into the overall structure of the Association and to guarantee its appropriate participation in the various bodies and committees,
- to draw up local statutes or bylaws that are binding on all Kolping Families or framework statutes,
- to decide independently which names and descriptions to use for membership groups, organizational bodies, committees and office holders,
- to determine the composition of the governing bodies and committees in accordance with local requirements,
- to participate in and support the functions and activities of the Association.

Article 25 Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of the National Association are at least:

- the decision-making body (National Convention),
- the governing body (National Executive Board).

Article 26 National Convention

1. The National Convention is the highest decision-making body of the National Association. The National Convention is particularly responsible for deliberating and ratifying the program, the national constitution, the local statutes or bylaws, and the contribution to be made to the association, as well as for the election of national office holders.
2. The National Convention consists of the elected representatives of Kolping Families, regional groupings and diocesan associations as well as of the National Executive Board.

Article 27
National Executive Board

1. The National Executive Board is the governing body of the National Association. Its particular responsibility is to deliberate and decide on all affairs of the National Association, which do not have to be brought before the National Convention. It has special responsibility for developing, expanding and uniting the Association.
2. The National Executive Board shall consist of a minimum of five persons. They include
 - the National President
 - the Vice-President
 - the National Praeses and/or Spiritual Director
 - the Secretary
 - the Treasurer
3. The National Executive Board is accountable to the National Convention. On behalf of the National Association, the National Executive Board submits an annual written report to the International Executive Board.

Article 28
National President

The National President represents the National Association in internal and external affairs. He or she convenes and chairs the National Convention and the meetings of the National Executive Board.

Article 29
National Praeses/Spiritual Director

1. The National Convention elects a Praeses and/or a Spiritual Director. In conjunction with the National Executive Board he/she has a special responsibility for providing pastoral ministry in the Association. With the acceptance of the election, he/she becomes a member of the National Executive Board. Further details are regulated by the National Associations.
2. The General Praeses shall be heard before such an election. After the election, the National Praeses/the Spiritual Director shall be confirmed by the Episcopal Protector or the relevant bishop in the National Bishops' Conference.
3. In consultation with the National Executive Board, the National Praeses/the Spiritual Director maintains contact with the National Bishops' Conference.

Article 30
Dissolution

1. A National Association can be dissolved through a resolution passed by the National Convention. The resolution to dissolve a National Association needs to be endorsed by the International Executive Board.

2. After consulting with the National Executive Board and after having heard the National President of the National Association in question, the International Executive Board can decree the dissolution of a National Association if
 - the National Association has fewer than ten Kolping Families,
 - it does not comply with the functions and objectives or the relevant resolutions of the Association.
3. The National Convention can appeal this dissolution decision by the International Executive Board. The final decision regarding this appeal rests with the International Board of Directors.

V. Continental Associations

Article 31 Constitution and Functions

1. For closer and better cooperation, National Associations can join together to form Continental, or Subcontinental Associations.
2. The Continental Associations shall endeavour in particular:
 - to promote cooperation of the National Associations,
 - to maintain contact with Kolping Families without a National Association and to support them in their activities,
 - to organize joint programs and projects,
 - to promote the work of the Association on the respective continent, and/or subcontinent.
 - to maintain contact with supranational agencies and Church authorities, which may be of interest to the work of the Association.
3. The Continental and Subcontinental Associations shall meet at least in those years when no International Convention or meeting of the International Board of Directors is held.

Article 32 Structures

1. The structures and bodies of the Continental Associations are decided upon by mutual agreement of all involved National Associations.
2. The General Praeses and the General Secretary, or members of the International Executive Board appointed by them, are members of the governing bodies of the Continental Associations and they are entitled to vote.
3. The constitutions of the Continental Associations and any amendments require the approval of the International Executive Board.

VI. KOLPING INTERNATIONAL

Article 33 Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL are:

- A. the International Convention,
- B. the International Board of Directors,
- C. the International Executive Board,
- D. the International Executive Committee,
- E. the General Praeses.

A. International Convention

Article 34 Functions

The International Convention is the highest decision-making body of the Association. All important issues concerning the Association shall be dealt with at the International Convention. These include in particular:

- decision-making on the Program and the International Constitution,
- acceptance of the report of the International Executive Board,
- acceptance of the report of the International Board of Directors,
- acceptance of the report on the economic development of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, its legal entities and facilities,
- acceptance of the report of the International Finance Committee,
- supporting the actions of the International Executive Board and the International Board of Directors,
- deliberation and adoption of proposed resolutions.

Article 35 Composition

1. The International Convention consists of
 - the members of the International Board of Directors,
 - delegates.
2. The number of delegates from each National Association is determined by the following guidelines:
 - one delegate for each thousand members or part thereof - up to ten thousand members,
 - one additional delegate for each ten thousand members or part thereof - from ten thousand members on.
3. Kolping Families without a National Association are entitled to send one delegate per country.
4. The General Praeses is entitled to invite representatives of Continental Associations to attend as guests.

Article 36
Convening

1. The International Convention shall take place every six years. However, the General Praeses, with approval of the International Board of Directors, may convene an International Convention earlier, should the need arise. He is obliged to do so at the request of the majority of the members of the International Board of Directors.
2. The General Praeses announces the date of the next International Convention at least twelve months in advance. He officially convenes the International Convention at least six months prior to the scheduled date by submitting an agenda.
This agenda goes:
 - to the members of the International Board of Directors,
 - to the National Associations,
 - to the Kolping Families in countries without a National Association.No later than three months before the International Convention, the National Associations and the Kolping Families from countries without a National Association must submit the names and addresses of their delegates to the General Secretariat in Cologne, Germany.
3. In special circumstances, the deadlines of paragraph 2 may be reduced by half by the International Executive Board. This also applies to the deadlines for the submission of motions.
4. Any duly convened International Convention constitutes a quorum.
5. As a matter of principle, the International Convention assembles in Cologne, the location of Adolph Kolping's tomb.

Article 37
Motions

1. Motions may be submitted to the International Convention by
 - the General Praeses,
 - the International Executive Board,
 - the International Board of Directors,
 - the National Associations,
 - Kolping Families without a National Association.
2. Motions shall be submitted in writing to the General Praeses up to three months before the date of the International Convention. The provisions of Article 36, paragraph 3 apply accordingly.

Article 38
Resolutions

1. All resolutions are adopted by simple majority. In case of a tied vote, the resolution is considered rejected. A majority refers to a majority of eligible voters present.
2. Amendments to the International Constitution require a two-thirds majority of eligible voters present.

3. Resolutions passed by the International Convention are binding on all Kolping members and on all subdivisions of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL.

Article 39
Right to Veto

The International Board of Directors has the right to veto resolutions adopted by the International Convention. The veto must be announced before the closing of an International Convention, and reasons must be given as to why a resolution is being vetoed. The veto must then be discussed, and a final decision must be reached. This decision is also binding on the International Board of Directors.

Article 40
Election Rules and Rules of Procedure

The International Convention is prepared and conducted in accordance with the election rules and the rules of procedure, as ratified by the International Convention.

B. International Board of Directors

Article 41
Functions

1. The International Board of Directors is the body which meets between International Conventions to take decisions, supervise, cooperate and coordinate activities. It deliberates and decides upon all matters which do not have to be brought before the International Convention.
2. The International Board of Directors has the responsibility, in particular
 - to provide initiatives for the realization of the Program of the Association,
 - to implement the resolutions adopted by the International Convention,
 - to elect the General Praeses,
 - to elect the General Secretary,
 - to elect the Managing Director,
 - to elect five additional members to the International Executive Board,
 - to elect the members of the International Finance Committee,
 - to accept the reports of the International Executive Board on the state and activities of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL,
 - to accept the report on the economic development of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, its legal entities and facilities,
 - to accept the report of the International Finance Committee,
 - to support the actions of the members of the International Executive Board,
 - to deliberate and decide on motions presented,
 - to discuss and determine the membership dues.

Article 42 Composition

The International Board of Directors consists of:

- the International Executive Board,
- one representative each from National Associations with at least 1,000 members,
- additional representatives of National Associations as follows:
 - one additional representative from National Associations with over 10,000 members,
 - two additional representatives from National Associations with over 25,000 members,
 - three additional representatives from National Associations with over 50,000 members
 - four additional representatives from National Associations with over 100,000 members.
- the International Executive Committee can appoint staff of legal entities and facilities of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and full-time staff of Continental Associations to attend in an advisory capacity.

In individual cases, the International Board of Directors can decide with a simple majority that advisory members cannot be present when certain items are discussed or adopted.

Article 43 Operating Principles

1. The International Board of Directors meets every other year. The date and place shall be announced by the General Praeses at least six months before the date of the meeting. Invitations shall be issued by the General Praeses at least one month before the date of the meeting. The International Board of Directors' meeting shall be held alternately on those continents where there are National Associations.
2. The General Praeses is obliged to call an extraordinary meeting of the International Board of Directors, if at least one-third of the members of the International Board of Directors request such a meeting in writing, stating their reason.
3. Any duly convened meeting of the International Board of Directors constitutes a quorum.

C. International Executive Board

Article 44 Functions

The International Executive Board is the governing body of the Association. It implements the decisions of the International Convention and of the International Board of Directors and it is accountable to these bodies. The International Executive Board has the authority to give instructions to the International Executive Committee. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 45
Composition

The International Executive Board consists of the General Praeses, the General Secretary, the Managing Director, and five additional members elected by the International Board of Directors from amongst its members for a period of four years.

Those five additional members shall include one member each from Africa, Asia, Europe, America and from the National Association with the highest number of members.

If one of these five additional members of the International Executive Board loses the national office which determined his/her membership on the International Board of Directors, a by-election shall be held at the next meeting of the International Board of Directors. If a member of the International Executive Board resigns during his/her term of office, a by-election for the remainder of the term shall be held.

The Head of Finance and Administration at the General Secretariat of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is an advisory member of the International Executive Board.

D. International Executive Committee

Article 46
Functions

The International Executive Committee is the managing board of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL. It takes the steps required to implement the decisions of the International Executive Board, which it is accountable to. It allocates duties in a schedule of responsibilities.

Article 47
Composition

The International Executive Committee consists of

- the General Praeses,
- the General Secretary,
- the Managing Director,

and, in an advisory capacity, the Head of Finance and Administration at the General Secretariat of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL.

In individual cases, the International Executive Committee can decide that the Head of Finance and Administration cannot be present when certain items are discussed or adopted.

Article 48
General Secretary

1. The International Board of Directors elects the General Secretary for a period of ten years. A re-election is possible for additional six-year periods. The candidate(s) require(s) the approval of the General Praeses. The provisions of Articles 53 and 54 of the International Constitution also apply accordingly to the General Secretary.

2. The General Secretary assists the General Praeses in the performance of his duties and is responsible primarily for the content of the work of the Association. As part of these responsibilities, he/she prepares the agenda for the meetings of the various bodies of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, participates in the planning and implementation of educational courses and training measures for leadership personnel within the organization, and prepares written material documenting the conceptual direction of the Association.
3. He/she is responsible for preparing the concepts and contents of major international events in cooperation with the committees responsible for specific events.
4. The General Secretary has a particular responsibility for the expansion of the Association, and he/she is the first contact for new Kolping Families being founded in countries in which a National Association has not yet been established. For existing National Associations, he/she provides guidance in their programmatic endeavours to implement the objectives of the Association.
5. The General Secretary is furthermore responsible for promoting international solidarity within the Association, for coordinating measures of solidarity, and for securing financial resources from national and international development organizations and government agencies for this work of National Associations and Kolping Families.
6. With regard to international institutions of the Church, the General Secretary represents the Association as part of the lay apostolate. At the same time, he/she is responsible for initiating and maintaining contact with international associations that are relevant to the work of the Association.
7. The General Secretary, or a representative appointed by him/her, has the right to participate at the meetings of the governing bodies of all subdivisions or groupings of the Association. The General Secretary must be invited to attend National Conventions no later than twelve weeks before the event. He/she is entitled to vote.

Article 49
Managing Director

1. The Managing Director is elected by the International Board of Directors for a period of six years. Re-election is possible. The provisions of Articles 55 and 56 of the International Constitution also apply accordingly to the Managing Director.
2. On the International Executive Committee, the Managing Director has a special responsibility for the economic concerns of the Association. He/she is responsible for the correct use of its funds and accurate bookkeeping and for making sure that contracts are drawn up in legally correct terminology.
3. The Managing Director is responsible for the preparation of the Membership Meeting of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Association e.V. and of the advisory committee of the International Adolph Kolping Foundation.

E. General Praeses

Article 50 Office

1. The General Praeses is the successor of Adolph Kolping and therefore must be a Catholic priest. He directs the affairs of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL in cooperation with the other bodies and committees.
2. The official seat of the General Praeses is Cologne, Germany.

Article 51 Election

1. The General Praeses is elected by the International Board of Directors for a period of ten years. A re-election is possible for additional six-year periods.
2. The election is confirmed by the Archbishop of Cologne as Protector of the Association, who then appoints the General Praeses as Rector of the Minorite Church, the location of Adolph Kolping's tomb.

Article 52 Functions

1. The General Praeses represents KOLPING INTERNATIONAL in internal and external affairs. He is the Board of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL within the meaning of Section 26 of the German Civil Code. He shares the pastoral responsibility for the Association with the International Executive Committee and the International Executive Board.
2. The duties of the General Praeses include:
 - ensuring the implementation of the Program of the Association, and the compliance with the International Constitution,
 - admitting newly founded Kolping Families to the Association in accordance with Article 13,
 - maintaining contact with all divisions of the Association,
 - convening the International Convention, meetings of the International Board of Directors, the International Executive Board and the International Executive Committee, as well as other major international events of the Association,
 - identifying specific educational goals and activities,
 - awarding the "Order of Merit of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL" to persons who have rendered outstanding services to the Association.

Article 53 Right of Presence

1. The General Praeses, or a representative appointed by him, has the right to participate at the meetings of the governing bodies of all groupings in the Association.

2. The General Praeses must be invited to all National Conventions. He or the representative appointed by him, is entitled to vote. The invitation must be issued at least twelve weeks before the scheduled date of the National Convention.

Article 54
Premature Resignation

1. The General Praeses may resign from office. Acceptance of his resignation by the International Board of Directors shall terminate his term of office. This acceptance may also be given in writing.
2. For compelling reasons, the International Board of Directors of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL may advise the General Praeses to resign. If such a resolution has been ratified in a secret ballot by a two-thirds majority of all members, he must resign.

Article 55
Legal entities of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL

1. Legal entities of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL are legally independent subdivisions. They are currently
 - KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Association e.V.
 - KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Cooperation e.V.
 - International Adolph Kolping Foundation
2. Members of the International Executive Board who are entitled to vote are part of the legal entities' Membership Meetings and the Foundation's advisory committee.
3. The boards of the legal entities consist of the members of the International Executive Committee.

Article 56
International Finance Committee

1. The International Finance Committee consists of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members of the Association, who are elected by the International Board of Directors-from amongst the members, for a period of six years. If a committee member resigns during his/her term, a by-election for the remainder of the term shall be held at the next meeting of the International Board of Directors. Re-election is possible.
2. The International Finance Committee draws up its internal regulations determining the type and scope of its work. These regulations must be approved by the International Board of Directors.

Article 57
Accession of Property

1. If upon dissolution of the Association and after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any assets remain, these remaining assets of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL shall pass to the non-profit KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Association e.V. based in Cologne, Germany, which shall use

the assets exclusively and directly for charitable purposes.

In the event that this Association has ceased to exist or is no longer a non-profit organization, assets shall be passed to the non-profit International Adolph Kolping Foundation based in Cologne, Germany, which shall use the assets exclusively and directly for charitable purposes.

2. If upon dissolution of a National Association and after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any assets remain, these remaining assets shall pass to the non-profit KOLPING INTERNATIONAL Association e.V. based in Cologne, Germany. In the event that this Association has ceased to exist or is no longer a non-profit organization, assets shall be passed to the non-profit International Adolph Kolping Foundation based in Cologne, Germany. National Associations are obliged to incorporate this regulation in their national constitutions.

VII. Final Provisions

Article 58 Entry into Force

The International Constitution was adopted by the XXXIII. International Convention in Lima, Peru. It takes effect on September 26, 2017.

Should discrepancies arise in the process of translating the document, the German version shall prevail.