

# UNION OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTS (UMAR)

## STATUTES

### **PREAMBLE**

Having regard to the desire of Mediterranean architects to create a structure aimed at fulfilling their common goal of regenerating and consolidating the ties inherent in their adhesion to the Mediterranean Basin, the common birthplace of civilisation, an organisation was formed at Mediterranean level by the Declaration of Rabat of 15 July 1994 and the constituent General Assembly of 1st January 1994 in Rethymnon, Crete, Greece, entitled:

### **THE UNION OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTS (UMAR)**

By the initiators following countries: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. This Union is complementary to other existing organisations. Pursuant to the action taken by the General Assembly held on January 16th and 17th 2004 at Meknes (Morocco), the relevant declaration and publication formalities were carried out with the competent body assigned to its registered office.

### **TITLE I: OBJECTIVES - MEANS - LANGUAGES - REGISTERED OFFICE - TERM**

#### **Article 1: Objectives**

The goal of the Union is, for the benefit of the Mediterranean Region, to attain the following basic objectives:

- 1-1: To proclaim Mediterranean architecture and culture to be of public interest
- 1-2: To promote the concept of the Mediterranean as a basis which will generate new approaches and dynamism in Mediterranean architecture and cultural expressions.
- 1-3: To ensure that architecture is practised with total independence and integrity and with absolute respect for professional ethics
- 1-4: To promote high quality architecture as an expression of culture serving people's needs.
- 1-5: To contribute to the protection of architectural and cultural heritage and instigate joint actions enabling its preservation and revalorisation.
- 1-6: To conduct any actions to preserve and improve quality in the built and natural environment with a view to ensuring a living environment worthy of the Mediterranean populations.
- 1-7: To undertake any actions apt to create and maintain between Mediterranean architects, cities, cultures and people, relationships of friendship, confraternity and mutual respect, enabling genuine collaboration and co-operation, without discrimination on the basis of nationality, race or religion.
- 1-8: To reaffirm and facilitate relations among architects in order to make known and promote their architecture at the technical, social and cultural level, by enriching and broadening their specific experience and knowledge.

1-9: To ensure the co-ordination of Mediterranean architects' organisations with a view to:

- Supporting them at national or international events.
- Improving the mode of practising architecture in the various countries.
- Perfecting the training of the architecture students and maintaining architects' skills.
- Promoting the role of architect in society as a dynamic element of economic, social and cultural development.
- Defending the moral and material rights of Mediterranean architects.

1-10: To create a dynamic aimed at introducing a spirit of co-operation and solidarity between Mediterranean architects and their organisations.

1-11: To encourage and promote all research in the field of Mediterranean building techniques, and to preserve architectural and cultural heritage.

1-12: To contribute efficiently to developing destroyed and degraded cities and to improving living conditions for their inhabitants.

1-13: to strengthen the links between the Union and other international organisations.

1-14: To collaborate with, or to develop any projects which are related with the Mediterranean architecture and culture.

## **Article 2: Means**

The Union aims to achieve the above objectives by:

2-1: organising conferences and seminars relative to the Mediterranean and international architecture and culture.

2-2: publishing periodic reviews, reports and studies relative to architecture, town planning and other Mediterranean cultural expressions, focusing on the spread of technical, social and artistic research, as well as information relative to projects for completion, and thereby encouraging through the publication thereof the activities, opportunities and work of Mediterranean architects and other cultural constituents.

2-3: striving for the spread and development of architectural theory and practice teaching methods.

2-4: encouraging the participation in international activities affecting the Mediterranean society and the sharing of knowledge at international level.

2-5: consolidating relations between the Union and international organisations to emphasise the Mediterranean identity at international events, while benefiting from other experiences.

2-6: studying regional architectural and cultural topics and issues or those common to the Mediterranean Basin, and encouraging architectural and cultural research.

2-7: Developing networks, together with other institutions or Mediterranean cities aiming the achievement of common objectives.

2-8: By any additional means considered suitable by the UMAR Governing Bodies to facilitate the achievement of the Association goals, like participating actively in social networks, etc.

## **Article 3: Languages**

The official languages of the Union are English and French. Any other language may be used at the request and the expense of the requesting Section.

#### **Article 4: Registered office**

The registered office of the Union is located at Malta for a renewable period of ten years.

#### **Article 5: Term**

The term of the Association is unlimited.

### **TITLE II: COMPOSITION**

#### **Article 6: Members of the association**

6-1: A national Section that is representative of architects from countries in and around the Mediterranean Basin may be defined as a member of the Union.

6-2: It is considered a national Section an architects' organisation that is officially recognised by the national authorities of its country and enjoying the greatest representativity. That organisation may appoint one or more representatives of architects' organisations with lower representativity in terms of numbers.

6-3: In the case of two or more architects' organisations recognised by their national authorities and having the same representativity, these organisations shall agree among them on their representatives within the Union. In the event of disagreement, the national Section is represented by the organisation or the most representative grouping of organisations in terms of membership numbers.

#### **Article 7: Union bodies The Union is composed of the following bodies:**

- 1- The General Assembly
- 2- The Executive Board

### **TITLE III: OPERATING METHODS**

#### **Article 8: General Assembly**

##### **8-1: Definitions**

8-1.1: The General Assembly is the supreme and sovereign administrative body of the Union.

8-1.2: The General Assembly consists of delegations representing the national Sections of the Union such as defined under article 6 of the articles of association.

8-1.3: Every national delegation consists of a head of delegation, who may be assisted by two delegated members. The head of delegation is the person appointed by the member Section to represent that section at the General Assembly. He/she is an architect and a member of the organisation represented by the Section.

8-1.4: At the time of voting, each delegation may only have one vote expressed by the representative appointed by the national Section.

##### **8-2: Meetings**

8-2.1: The General Assembly meets once a year at the convocation of the President of the Union at a date and venue decided upon by the Executive Board. It is convened by the President at the very latest two (2) months in advance.

8-2.2: The General Assembly may only be held if at least two thirds (2/3) of the member sections are present. If this quorum is not attained, then the General Assembly is set back 24 hours. The

General Assembly can then be validly held whatever the number of sections present, providing that this number is no less than half to deliberate on the points provided under articles 8-3.5, 8-3.6 and 8-3.7.

8-2.3: At the request of at least one third of its members and subject to the same conditions in the preceding paragraph, the General Assembly meets for an extraordinary session at the convocation of the President.

8-2.4: The draft agenda of the General Assembly is set by the Executive Board and sent to its members with the notice of meeting. The agenda is definitively set by the General Assembly. In the case of an extraordinary meeting, the agenda is circulated with the notice convening the meeting.

8-3: Prerogatives of the General Assembly:

Among other prerogatives, the General Assembly enjoys the following:

8-3.1: Discussing and approving the programmes of activities, including the initiatives, projects and works proposed by the Executive Board.

8-3.2: Deciding on the recommendations and directives to be given to the Executive Board.

8-3.3: Discussing and approving the financial report and the draft provisional budget submitted by the Executive Board.

8-3.4: Approving the accounts of the previous year according to the provision of regulations.

8-3.5: Developing the recommendations and carrying the resolutions required for attaining the Union's objectives.

8-3.6: Approving the articles of association and internal regulations and amending them when necessary.

8-3.7: Deciding on the location of the Union's registered office and the term or transfer thereof, when applicable.

8-3.8: Approving the admission, suspension or exclusion of members of the Union.

8-3.9: All resolutions of the General Assembly are carried by the simple majority of those present, except for those regarding paragraphs 8-3.3, 8-3.5, 8-3.6 and 8-3.7, which require a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Union.

## **Article 9: The Executive Board**

9-1: Definition

9-1.1: The Executive Board is composed of five (5) members with voting powers:

- The President
- The Vice President
- The SecretaryGeneral
- The Treasurer
- The Counsellor

The Past President belongs to the Executive Board for a one (1) year mandate and does not have the right to vote.

9-1.2: The Executive Board is elected for a renewable period of three (3) years. Each member cannot be elected to the Executive Board for more than three (3) consecutive times. For eligibility as a candidate, the member must belong to a national section which is up to date with its annual fees.

9-1-3: The candidates are all presented by their national Section and elected individually by the General Assembly. Once elected, members of the Board don't represent their national section any more but the Union, consequently, the mandate of member of the Board can't be held simultaneously with mandate of national delegate.

## 9-2: Meetings

9-2.1: The Executive Board meets at least three (3) times a year, at the convocation of the President. It may also be convened at the express request of the majority of the members of the Executive Board.

9-2.2: The quorum for the meetings of the Executive Board is three (3) members, including the President.

9-2.3: The resolutions of the Executive Board are carried by a majority vote of the members. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the casting vote. Only those items on the agenda may be voted on.

9-2.4: The continuous absence of a member of the Executive Board from three (3) consecutive meetings, except for reasons recognized as valid by the Executive Board, shall warrant his or her resignation de facto.

9-2.5: In the event of the resignation of one or more members of the Executive Board, the next General Assembly shall elect the replacement member(s).

## 9-3: Prerogatives of the Executive Board

The Executive Board enjoys the following prerogatives:

9-3.1: Deciding the date and venue of the General Assembly on the proposal of a member country entrusted with its organisation. In the absence of any proposals, the General Assembly is held in the country of the registered office.

9-3.2: Monitoring the execution of the resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly.

9-3.3: Setting the draft agenda of the General Assembly.

9-3.4: Proposing the admission of a new member, or the suspension or exclusion of an existing member of the Union to the General Assembly.

9-3.5: Submitting the Union's projects and activity programmes to the General Assembly.

9-3.6: Submitting the Executive Board's business report to the General Assembly.

9-3.7: Preparing the provisional budget and submitting it to the General Assembly. Examining the budget proposals of each work group.

9-3.8: Submitting the annual accounts to the General Assembly.

9-3.9: Possibility of organising conferences, seminars, meetings, etc. falling within the scope of the association's objectives.

9-3.10: Authorising initiatives of any kind in accordance with the internal regulations, whose objectives and operating methods are compatible with those of the UMAR and of interest for the Union.

9-3.11: Appointing Union representatives to the various international events.

9-3.12: Fulfilling all the missions required for attaining the Union's objectives.

9-3.13: Appointing members of the competition juries representing the Union.

#### 9-4: Functions of Members of the Executive Board

##### 9-4.1: The President

9-4.1.1: The President represents the Union in all dealings with national and international organisations, both at law and in all acts of civil life. He concludes agreements and contracts in accordance with the Union's activity programmes.

9-4.1.2: The President convenes ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

9-4.1.3: The President chairs the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Board.

9-4.1.4: The President monitors the execution of the resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

9-4.1.5: The President may delegate some of his functions to the outgoing president or to the vice-president.

9-4.2: The Counsellor, carries out specific missions set out by the Executive Board.

9-4.3: The Vice-President, In case of unavoidable absence of the President he may preside over the statutory meetings of the Union. If the vacancy of the post of President is definitive, assumes the duties of the president until the next General Assembly, which elects new President.

9-4.4: The Secretary General, organises the secretariat and oversees the activities thereof. The administrative secretariat is domiciled in the country of the Secretary General.

9-4.5: The Treasurer, is responsible for managing the Union's finances, under the direction of the Executive Board in accordance with the internal regulations of the Union.

9-4.6: The Past President participates in the Executive Board meetings without a vote.

#### **Article 10: Honorary Members**

The General Assembly may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, give the title of Honorary Member of the Union to any person of its choosing for exceptional services rendered to the UMAR in relation to its aims and objectives.

#### **TITLE IV: ASSOCIATION RESOURCES - BUDGET**

##### **Article 11: Financial resources**

The Union is a non-profit making organisation and its financial resources come from:

11- 1: Annual contributions made by the national Sections proposed by the Executive Board to the provisional budget of the Union, voted on by the General Assembly.

11-2: Donations, subsidies and contributions.

11-3: Revenue from the Union's services and activities, intended at achieving the Objectives delineated in Article 1 by the Means described in Article 2 of this statute.

##### **Article 12: Provisional budget**

The Union's provisional budget is proposed by the Executive Board and voted on by the General Assembly. It comprises two (2) chapters:

12-1: Operating budget: this comprises the operating expenses of the Secretariat and the Executive Board. The operating budget is covered by the contributions of member Sections.

12-2: Action budget: every operation in the Union's action budget comprises an execution budget.

## **TITLE V: RESIGNATION - LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS - DISSOLUTION**

### **Article 13: Resignation**

A member section of the Union may resign providing that it has given at least three (3) months' advance notice in writing to the President of the Executive Board. Nevertheless, its resignation shall only become effective following approval by the next General Assembly. The resigning section is not entitled to a refund of any share of its contribution since it has ceased to be a member during part of the contribution year.

### **Article 14: Loss of membership status**

Aside from resignation, membership status may be lost by expulsion, decided upon by the Executive Board, for non-payment of the annual contribution for three (3) consecutive years, for serious grounds or evident disinterest in the activities of the association, the member section having been invited to submit an explanation. The member section is informed thereof immediately, and the the Assembly endorses the decision of the Executive Board at its next meeting.

### **Article 15: Dissolution**

The Union is declared dissolved if the General Assembly decides to dissolve it with a majority of 2/3 of its members.

In case of dissolution, the General Assembly will designate a liquidator who will carry out the liquidation of funds and the settlement of debts of the Union, following which, all remaining assets of the Union shall be applied in favour of another organisation with similar aims or purposes as the Union, and which may be selected either by the Executive Board or the General Assembly as the case may be.

## **TITLE VI INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **Article 16: Records**

The Union holds records of the General Assembly deliberations to which all votes and resolutions are consigned. The Union also holds records of the Executive Board's resolutions and the activities' reports. The minutes are signed by the President and kept at the General Secretariat's offices.

### **Article 17: Activities**

The Executive Board will inform to all Member Sections and partners about any relevant activity being organised or carried out with the participation of the U.M.A.R. The Executive Board will receive any comments or petitions for participation and will answer them in a reasoned way. The General Assembly will be informed about all the activities carried out by the U.M.A.R.

### **Article 18: Observers**

Any institution may follow sessions of the General Assembly upon the invitation of the Executive Board, but are not entitled to participate in the debates and resolutions and have no voting rights.

These representatives are called 'observers'. The Executive Board may invite non-member sections to attend the work of the General Assembly.

**Article 19: Internal regulations**

The Executive Board may establish internal regulations to cover the points not provided herein, notably those concerning the practical activities of the association. It shall seek approval thereof by the General Assembly.

Approved by the General Assembly  
in Marseille, the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013