STATUTES OF THE UNION OF MEDITERRANEAN ARCHITECTS

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 architecture to be of public interest
1-2 : to promote the Mediterranean concept as a basic concept, allowing the generation of new approaches and initiatives in Mediterranean architecture.
1-3 : To ensure that architecture is practiced with total independence and integrity and with absolute respect for professional ethics
1-4 : To promote top-quality architecture as an expression of culture serving people’s needs.
1-5 : To contribute to the protection of architectural heritage and instigate joint actions enabling its preservation and revalorization.
1-6 : To conduct any actions apt to preserve and improve quality in building, to maintain and protect the 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 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 practicing architecture in the various countries. - Perfecting the training of 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 organizations.
1-11 : To encourage and promote all research in the field of construction techniques in the widest sense or that concerning the history, preservation and promotion of architectural 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.
Article 2: Means
The Union aims to achieve the above objectives by:
2-1: organising conferences and seminars relative to Mediterranean architecture.
2-2: publishing periodic reviews, reports and studies relative to architecture and town planning, 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.
2-3: striving for the spread and development of architectural theory and practice teaching methods.
2-4: encouraging the creation of science and technology information centers for the construction industry, and the sharing of knowledge at Mediterranean and international level.
2.5: consolidating relations between the Union and international organisations to emphasize the Mediterranean identity at international events, while benefiting from other experiences.
2-6: studying national architectural topics and issues or those common to the Mediterranean Basin, and encouraging architectural research.

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, General Secretariat (Executive Office) and UMAR Delegate
4.1 The UMAR is registered in Malta as an International non-profit organisation. All the bank accounts and financial assets of the UMAR will be located in Malta. This status should be maintained for an indefinite period of time.
This status can be changed subject to a formal motion presented for the consideration of the General Assembly as set out in the Regulations and approved by at least two thirds of the member sections.
4.2 The Executive Bureau will appoint a delegate of the UMAR in Malta to represent the Union as required at law for the purposes of retaining its NGO status and administering its assets. The UMAR will hold a legal address in Malta.
4.3 The General Secretariat (Executive Office) will be organised in a venue decided by the General Assembly for a renewable period of six years in accordance with the internal regulations of the Union.

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: An architects’ organisation that is officially recognised by the national authorities of its country, and enjoying the greatest representativity, may be defined as the national Section of the Union. 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 Bureau

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 is an architect and a member of the organization 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 Bureau. 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 Bureau 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 formation of a work group proposed by the Executive Bureau.
8-3.2: Deciding on the recommendations and directives to be given to the Executive Bureau.
8-3.3: Discussing and approving the financial report and the draft provisional budget submitted by the Executive Bureau.
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 where necessary.
8-3.7: Deciding on the location of the Union’s registered office and the term or transfer thereof, where 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 Bureau
9-1: Definition
9-1.1: The Executive Bureau is composed of six (6) members:
   ▶ The President
The Counselor
The Vice President
The Secretary General
The Treasurer
The past President

Except for the Past President, all candidates are presented by their national Section and elected individually by the General Assembly.

9-1.2: The Executive Bureau is elected for a renewable period of three (3) years. The Past President carries out duties for a three (3) years mandate. Each member cannot be elected to the Executive Bureau for more than two consecutive times. For eligibility as a candidate, the member must belong to a national section which is up to date with its subscriptions. Once elected, members of the Bureau don’t represent their national section any more but the Union. Consequently, the mandate of member of the Bureau can’t be held simultaneously with mandate of national delegate.

9-2: Meetings
9-2.1: The Executive Bureau 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 Bureau.
9-2.2: The quorum for the meetings of the Executive Bureau is three (3) members, including the President.
9-2.3: The resolutions of the Executive Bureau 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 Bureau from three (3) consecutive meetings, except for reasons recognized as valid by the Executive Bureau, 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 Bureau, the next General Assembly shall elect the replacement member(s).

9-3: Prerogatives of the Executive Bureau
The Executive Bureau 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 Bureau’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: Constituting work groups whose prerogatives and operating methods shall be defined in the internal regulations, and, on the proposal of the member sections, choosing the work group coordinators who will be tasked with organising and running their groups.
9-3.11: Inviting the work group coordinators to take part in meetings of the Executive Bureau and/or the General Assembly to report on their groups’ activities.
9-3.12: Appointing Union representatives to the various international events.
9-3.13: Fulfilling all the missions required for attaining the Union’s objectives.
9-3.14: Appointing members of the competition juries representing the Union.
9-4: Functions of Members of the Executive Bureau

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. The outgoing President remains at the disposal of the Executive Bureau for a year to ensure the continuity of the association’s activities. In connection with this, the Executive Bureau may delegate tasks to him.

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

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

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

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

9-4.2: The Counsellor; The Counsellor carries out specific missions set out by the Executive Bureau.

9-4.3: The Vice-President In case of definitive vacancy of the post of President, the Vice-President assumes the duties of the president until the next General Assembly, which elects the President.

9-4.4: The Secretary General; 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 Bureau in accordance with the internal regulations of the Union.

9-4.5.1 For the purposes of administering the financial assets the Treasurer shall be assisted by the UMAR Delegate in Malta as required.

9-4.6: The Past President; The outgoing President remains at the disposal of the Executive Bureau to ensure the continuity of the association’s activities. In connection with this, the President of the Executive Bureau may delegate tasks to him.

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 Mediterranean architecture.

TITLE IV: ASSOCIATION RESOURCES - BUDGET

Article 11: Financial resources
The Union’s financial resources come from:
11-1: Annual contributions made by the national Sections proposed by the Executive Bureau 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.

Article 12: Provisional budget
The Union’s provisional budget is proposed by the Executive Bureau 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 Bureau. 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 Bureau. 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 Bureau, 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 Assembly approves the decision of the Executive Bureau at its next meeting.

Article 15: Dissolution
The Union is declared dissolved when it is represented by less than seven (7) member sections or if the General Assembly decides to dissolve it. 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. Under no circumstances may any share of Union property be attributed to Union members, except for the refund of their contributions. Any surplus assets shall be appropriated to one or more other associations pursuing similar goals and designated by name by the General Assembly.

TITLE VI INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 16: Records
The Union holds records of the General Assembly’s deliberations to which all votes and resolutions are consigned. The Union also holds records of the Executive Bureau’s resolutions and the work groups activity reports. The minutes are signed by the President and kept at the General Secretariat’s offices.

Article 17: Work groups
The Executive Bureau makes proposals to the General Assembly for the constitution of work groups composed of architects of member sections or persons considered by the Executive Bureau to be useful. In all cases, the relevant resolution comprises directives relative to expenses solicited by the work group. The group coordinators regularly submit, and at least twice a year, a report on the activities of their groups. They render an account of their activities during the annual General Assembly. The Executive Bureau may, if necessary, participate in work group meetings.

Article 18: Observers
All technician organisations in the construction field may follow sessions of the General Assembly on the invitation of the Executive Bureau, but are not entitled to participate in the debates and resolutions and have no voting rights. These representatives are called ‘observers’. The Executive Bureau may invite non-member sections to attend the work of the General Assembly. These representatives are called ‘delegates’ and have the status of observers.

Article 19: Internal regulations
The Executive Bureau 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.