

# **PEACE PROGRAMME**

## **Palestinian/European/American Co-operation in Education**

### **BY - LAWS**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The Programme for Palestinian/European/Academic Co-operation in Education (PEACE Programme) was established in Jerusalem, on 1st November 1991, as an international university network, aimed at promoting co-operation between European and Palestinian universities. The Constitutive Agreement was signed by the rectors and presidents of twelve European universities (Barcelona, Coimbra, Granada, Krakow, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain, Namur, Pisa, Salamanca, Siena and Viterbo) and by their colleagues from six Palestinian universities (Al-Quds, An-Najah National, Birzeit, Bethlehem, Gaza Islamic and Hebron).

The PEACE Programme is based on the principles of the right to education and the right to culture, as proclaimed in the UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) as well as the right to academic freedom, as defined in the Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education (1988) and in the Magna Charta of European Universities (1988).

The PEACE Programme grew steadily and is now open to universities in other regions of the world, outside the Middle East. While maintaining its acronym, it has been renamed "Programme for Palestinian/European/American Co-operation in Education". Its overall objective is to develop links between Palestinian and foreign universities as a means to enhance quality relevance and efficiency of their programmes and of the services they provide to their communities, for better mutual understanding, solidarity and benefit. The activities of the Programme concern academic matters such as student and teacher mobility, staff and institutional development, undertaking of joint research, etc.

#### **I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PEACE PROGRAMME**

1. The PEACE Programme is open to universities in Europe, North America and other regions of the world, which accept its aims and objectives, as presented in the Constitutive Agreement of 1st November 1991 and reflected in the Preamble above. University associations and other academic organisations can be accepted, upon request, as associate

collective members. Applications for memberships are presented in writing to the President of the Steering Committee and confirmed by the General Assembly, by unanimous vote.

2. The member-universities and associations undertake to support the activities of the PEACE Programme and to also seek support for these activities from potential donors.
3. The member-universities will pay a membership fee, which is established by the General Assembly as a function of the size of the university. Associate collective members will pay a membership fee which is double that of an individual member-university of over 20,000 students.

## **II. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **A. Membership**

- 1) The General Assembly consists of one representative of each member university and of any other members, who will be accepted according to the By-Laws of the PEACE Program.
- 2) A simple majority constitutes the quorum for the General Assembly, to meet and take decisions.

### **B. Meetings**

- 1) The General Assembly meets once every two years. Meetings will be held in Palestine and in Europe, on a rotation basis.
- 2) The agenda for the General Assembly meeting will be prepared by the Steering Committee. It will include items provided independently by at least five members. Invitations for the meeting will be sent to the members at least three months in advance.
- 3) Upon the request of a simple majority of its members, an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly will be convened, with at least one month notice, according to the rules.
- 4) A simple majority of the members constitutes the quorum for the General Assembly.
- 5) For the purpose of voting, members may represent one other University besides their own. The delegation for voting must be sent in writing to the Secretary General, before the meeting.

### **C. Duties**

The General Assembly is the highest body of the Network. Its responsibilities and duties include:

- Acceptance of new members, upon the proposal of the Steering Committee.
- Election of the Steering Committee by secret ballot, by simple majority. The candidates must be members of the General Assembly and must be proposed by at least five members.
- Approval of the budget.
- Approval of the working plan presented by the Steering Committee.
- Approval of any changes in the By-Laws of the PEACE Programme, by unanimous vote.

### **III. THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

#### **A. Membership**

- 1) The Steering Committee is composed of *three* members from Palestinian Universities, one more Palestinian representative at large, five members from European universities and one representative of American universities. The members of the Steering Committee are elected, on a personal basis, by simple majority of the General Assembly, once every four years.
- 2) If four or more members of the Steering Committee cease to carry their duties as members, the Steering Committee should call for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly to elect new members to replace them.
- 3) The Steering Committee members may be elected for no more than two terms consecutively.
- 4) The Steering Committee will elect from amongst its members a President, a Vice President, a secretary general and a treasurer, who constitute the Executive Bureau of the Committee.

#### **B. Meetings**

- 1) The Steering Committee meets at least once a year. The quorum is six members. Meetings can be held via Internet, or by using other advanced communication means. The PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO will record and transmit the views, proposals and positions of all

members of the Steering Committee, and should reflect them in the Report of the meeting, which should be endorsed by all members of the Committee.

- 2) The Executive Bureau meets twice a year, or whenever the need arises. They are to be held mainly via Internet, in order to keep costs to a minimum.

### **C. Duties**

1. The Steering Committee is the administrative and executive Body of the PEACE Programme. Its responsibilities and duties include:

- to officially represent the PEACE Program;
- to administer the PEACE Program;
- to raise funds for the PEACE Program;
- to convene the meetings of the General Assembly;
- to propose admission of new members to the General Assembly;
- to submit the budget to the General Assembly;
- to submit an audited financial report to the General Assembly;
- to submit the working plan to the General Assembly;
- to establish working groups when necessary;
- to appoint the Head of the PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO and to supervise the activity of the Office.

2. The Executive Bureau of the Steering Committee administers the PEACE Programme between meetings of the Steering Committee. The Executive Bureau informs, on a regular basis, all members of the Steering Committee on decisions and recommendations it adopts and on activities it wishes to initiate.

3. PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO

An Office of the PEACE Programme is established at UNESCO. The Office is run by the Head of the Office and works under the direct supervision of the Steering Committee, through its Executive Bureau.

The responsibilities and duties of the Office include:

- to provide secretariat services for the PEACE Programme and permanent links with the Steering Committee and the member-universities;
- to convene, upon instructions of the Executive Bureau, the meetings of the Steering Committee and of the General Assembly, and to prepare the information and working documents for these meetings;

- to prepare and submit to the Steering Committee the workplan and the draft budget of the Programme;
- to follow the execution of the activities of the Programme, in conformity with the decisions of the General Assembly and the instructions of the Steering Committee and of its Bureau;
- to raise funds, and to expand the membership and the range of activities of the PEACE Programme;
- to propose to the Executive Bureau the appointment of temporary staff, as required for the smooth running of the activities of the Programme.