

# WCO STATUTES

## I. WORLD CITRUS ORGANISATION

The WCO (World Citrus Organisation) is an organisation comprised of entities, which represent citrus producing and exporting countries.

## II. PURPOSE

The purposes of the World Citrus Organisation are:

1. To create a platform to discuss issues of common concern affecting citrus producing countries;
2. To better structure the exchange of information on production and market trends, thus enhancing citrus producers' knowledge base with a view to prepare the sector for the horizon 2030;
3. To enhance collaboration on promotion of consumption and benefits of citrus (e.g. health and nutrition) to seek an equilibrium between supply and demand;
4. To foster discussion on policy issues of common concern for the sector and promote Research and Innovation projects;
5. To liaise with public authorities and other actors in the supply chain to highlight the importance of citrus producers and the need for a fair return.

## III. LANGUAGE

The written communication and meeting language of World Citrus Organisation shall be English.

## IV. MEMBERSHIP

### A. *ELIGIBILITY*

1. Full members/Country representatives:
  - a. Every country, which produces citrus for the fresh or processed fruit market, is eligible for full membership to World Citrus Organisation.
  - b. Each member country is entitled to be represented by up to (two) nationally recognised industry organisation representing citrus production in that country. In the case of federal countries, different States may adhere individually as full members, subject to the approval in the Annual General Meeting.
  - c. National/State associations are full member of WCO with all the benefits of the membership including access to official functions of governance and voting rights.
  - d. In the case of absence of national-wide industry association, a producing country may be temporarily represented by a national company deeply involved in citrus production activities, until the time when such a national structure is set up. The Annual Meeting will evaluate this status on an annual basis.

2. Associated members:
  - a. Individual companies with an interest in citrus can join the association in the capacity of associated member.
  - b. Associated members are entitled to participate to meetings and to receive the information of the association, but are not eligible for official functions nor having voting rights.
3. New members are admitted by the World Citrus Organisation Annual Meeting.
4. All current World Citrus Organisation countries will encourage eligible citrus producing countries to become members of World Citrus Organisation.
5. The Organisation may invite interested parties, which are deemed appropriate, to participate as observers to the discussion of the annual meeting of World Citrus Organisation.

## ***B. REMOVAL***

A member which no longer meets the requirements of membership or fails to pay its annual contribution fee is subject to removal by the members of World Citrus Organisation at the Annual Meeting.

## **V. OFFICERS**

### ***A. CHAIRMANSHIP***

- The World Citrus Organisation will be chaired by two countries, with a representative of the Northern Hemisphere and a representative of the Southern Hemisphere. These two countries will nominate their representative for this function.
- The mandate will be for a period of two years and could be renewed once.
- This rule does not exclude that the Association Annual Meeting might decide to have a single chair with rotation between the Northern and the Southern Hemisphere, in this case a chair and vice chair will be appointed by the Annual Meeting .

### ***B. SECRETARIAT AND MARKET ANALYST***

1. The Annual Meeting appoints a Secretariat, which will run the administrative business of the World Citrus Organisation and serve as permanent central contact point. The secretariat will, among other duties, have those mentioned in section V C 1 to 4.
2. The Annual Meeting appoints a market analyst expert to advise the Organisation with analysis of trends for the citrus industry globally. The Market Analyst will, among other duties, have those mentioned in section V C 5.

### ***C. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS***

1. The Secretariat and the (co)chairs shall carry out the daily activities based on the decisions taken at the Annual Meeting of the World Citrus Organisation. They shall also act as spokesmen for the organisation.
2. The Secretariat, in co-ordination with the (co)chair, shall provide the agenda and venue of the Annual Meeting or any other ad-hoc meetings that should be organised. The notice should be no less than one month prior to the meeting.

3. The Secretariat will provide all necessary documents to delegates and be responsible for the record of proceedings at any meetings during the term.
4. Statistical information shall be gathered by the Secretariat, including at least the annual forecast of citrus production for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, in a common format and according to the requirements agreed by the members.
5. The market analyst is responsible for presenting at the Annual Meeting a report on the main citrus market global trends. He will also provide market outlooks upon the release by the Secretariat of the annual Northern and Southern Hemispheres crop forecast.

#### *D. TREASURER*

The Annual Meeting appoints a Treasurer for a mandate of two years. The Treasurer can be re-elected.

## VI. MEETINGS

### *A. ANNUAL MEETING*

The World Citrus Organisation shall hold at least one Annual Meeting.

The members will decide each and every year at the Annual General Meeting the date and location for the subsequent Annual Meeting. Meetings shall preferably be held in connection to international trade events, but members could decide to hold the meeting in one of the country members.

Unless decided otherwise, up to three official delegates can attend the Annual Meeting on behalf of each member country. Names of participants should be provided to the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting.

The voting procedure will be as follows:

1. Each full country member shall be entitled to one vote; - The country member shall select the official delegate casting their vote;
2. For a valid deliberation at the Annual Meeting, a quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the current full membership (present or represented) shall form a valid basis for the deliberation of the Annual Conference of the World Citrus Organisation.
3. The WCO will take decisions on the basis of a consensus among all the full members.

The Annual Meeting is competent to:

- appoint officials, including the (co)chairs, the treasurer, the Secretariat and the market analyst;
- vote on the organisation's budget and discharge budget;
- fix annual contribution fee of full and associated members;
- fix the location of upcoming Annual Meetings;
- amend Articles of Association;
- appoint new members;
- remove members not complying with their obligations;
- setting up ad-hoc Committees or Sub-Groups;
- decide on the organisation of an annual conference/workshop.

## *B. WORKING COMMITTEES*

WCO full members may decide to set up 5 permanent working committees, specific to main citrus categories (oranges, easy peelers, lemons & limes, grapefruit, processing). A Chair shall be appointed for each committee.

## *C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE*

WCO full members may decide to organise an annual conference or workshop for members, open to non-members.

## VII. ASSOCIATION'S BUDGET AND FINANCE

Upon recommendation of the Treasurer, and in coordination with the Secretariat, the Annual Meeting shall fix on a yearly basis:

- the budget;
- the annual membership fee for full members and associated members.

The Annual Meeting shall discharge the Treasurer and the Secretariat for the account of the previous year.

## VIII. TERMINATION

By consensus, the members can decide to terminate the activities of the World Citrus Association. The assets will be liquidated without redistribution to the members. The assets could either be granted to a charity or to an equivalent association

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