

## **BYLAWS OF THE HOUSE OF LANGUAGES CONSORTIUM**

### **Article 1**

#### Legal nature and members

- 1.1 The House of Languages is a consortium promoted by the Government of Catalonia, with its own legal capacity, initially comprised of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia, the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, and the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation.
- 1.2 Equally able to form part of the consortium will be other public or private non-profit bodies which may be interested in pursuing the objectives of the House of Languages, with the prior agreement of the Board of Directors ratified by the body or bodies represented by the members of the Board who have voted in favour of same.
- 1.3 The incorporation of new members requires the acceptance of the Bylaws.

### **Article 2**

#### Legal system

The consortium is constituted under article 55 of Law 13/1989, of 14<sup>th</sup> December, pursuant to the organisation, procedure and legal regime of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia. It is governed by these bylaws, by the regulations applicable to consortiums and, suppletorily, by the regulation applicable to the Administration of the Government of Catalonia.

### **Article 3**

#### Legal and functional capacity

The consortium has full legal capacity and capacity to function within the ambit of its purposes and functions.

### **Article 4**

#### Purpose and functions

- 4.1 The purpose of the consortium is to promote and facilitate the preservation, use and development of the world's languages, as a vehicle for communication, civilisation



and dialogue, as the cultural heritage of mankind, and as a right of individuals and of linguistic communities.

4.2 In order to fulfil this purpose, it will be concerned with:

- a) Promoting the knowledge of and the respect for linguistic diversity as a part of the cultural pluralism of humanity, in order to support an equitable global linguistic order.
- b) Encouraging the recognition of every language's value for the respective linguistic community and for humanity as a whole, as an irreplaceable manifestation of the historical process of adaptation to a determined physical, natural and socio-cultural environment.
- c) Contributing to the assessment of languages and of multilingualism as instruments of personal and collective development, and as a means of dialogue between the peoples and cultures of the world.
- d) Supporting those policies which promote the preservation and development of the world's languages and the management of multilingualism, in a framework of respect for linguistic diversity.
- e) Participating in the development and the promotion of linguistic engineering products which facilitate the implantation of multilingual communications, in coordination with the Secretariat of Linguistic Policy without prejudice to the competencies of this body, and in accordance with the directives which are established by the Department of Universities, Research and Information Society.
- f) Selecting and promoting knowledge, experiences and initiatives related to languages and multilingualism around the world, encouraging cooperation and maximum efficiency.
- g) Establishing and channelling cooperation initiatives on a national and international level with institutions, bodies, organisations and specialists which are dedicated to activities related with the purposes of the House of Languages.



## **Article 5**

### Governing bodies

The governing bodies of the consortium are the following:

- a) The Board of Directors
- b) The Presidency
- c) The Director

## **Article 6**

### Composition of the Board of Directors

6.1 The Board of Directors is made up of:

The President of the Consortium.

A minimum of five and a maximum of eight persons, representatives of the Government Administration, appointed by the Government at the request of the Minister responsible for the area of linguistic policies.

A person representing the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, appointed by the responsible governing body of this institution.

A person representing the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation, appointed by the responsible governing body of this institution.

Two persons of recognised competence in the academic or cultural ambit, appointed by the Presidency at the request of the Director.

The Director of the Consortium.

The position of Secretary of the Board is exercised by a person who lends his or her services to the Consortium or, similarly, to the department of the Government Administration with responsibilities related to linguistic policy, and who attends the Board meetings without voting rights.

6.2 In the event that new bodies are incorporated into the consortium, the Board of Directors will have the right to extend the composition of same.

6.3 The appointment of the representatives of the bodies which are members of the consortium may be revoked at any time by the bodies therein represented.

## **Article 7**



## Attributions and function of the Board of Directors

### 1.1 It corresponds to the Board of Directors:

- a) To approve the modification of the Bylaws, which should be ratified by the body or bodies which are represented by the members who have voted in favour of same.
- b) To approve the proposal of new consortium members for incorporation.
- c) To appoint and remove from office the Director.
- d) To approve the annual action plan for the following financial year and the report for the previous financial year.
- e) To approve the budgets, the carrying out of same and the profit and loss accounts.
- f) To authorise, prior to the event, the formalisation of any undertaking which may imply a multi-annual expense.
- g) To approve, prior to the event, the credit operations destined to cover treasury requirements in accordance with the rights granted in favour of the consortium. Other credit operations should be authorised previously by the bodies which contribute economic resources to the consortium.
- h) To approve, if so required, the rates and fees of services which may be rendered by the consortium.
- i) To provide and convey goods and rights to the consortium, perform transactions and accept legacies, bequests and donations.
- j) To approve appointments of members of staff and personnel, and the modifications of same.
- k) To oversee, in general, the execution of the purposes of the consortium and propose to the institutions which constitute same all those measures which are considered adequate for the realisation of its activities.
- l) Those other functions which are attributed through these Bylaws.

1.1 The Board of Directors will convene in ordinary session twice per annum and in extraordinary session provided that this is convened through its president at his or her own initiative or at the request of any of the consortium bodies.

## **Article 8**

### The Presidency



- 8.1 The Presidency of the consortium corresponds to the Minister responsible for the area of linguistic policies.
- 8.2 The Presidency has the following functions:
  - a) To assume the representation of the consortium on the highest level.
  - b) To set out the agenda, convene, preside over, suspend and adjourn the sessions of the Board of Directors.
  - c) Other functions attributed through these Bylaws.



## **Article 9**

### The Director

The Director, as the administrator and executive responsible for the consortium, has the following functions:

- a) To draw up the annual action plans based on the human, technical and economic resources available and, once approved by the Board of Directors, carry out these plans.
- b) To present to the Board of Directors the annual report on the activities of the consortium.
- c) To prepare the annual budgetary projects and their liquidation for submission and approval to the Board of Directors.
- d) To manage the personnel who lend their services to the consortium and its disciplinary authority.
- e) To exercise the ordinary representation of the consortium judicially and extra judicially, and, in consequence, undertake the contracts and agreements necessary for the realisation of its purposes, to execute the budget and order payments and expenses.
- f) To execute the agreements of the Board of Directors, to organise and supervise the services and directly oversee the good functioning and the correct management of the consortium.
- g) Other functions attributed through these Bylaws.

## **Article 10**

### Economic resources

The economic resources of the consortium are the following:

- a) Contributions from the consortium bodies.
- b) Operating return on its assets.
- c) Revenue which may be obtained through the rendering of its services.
- d) Donations and financial subsidies of any description.
- e) Any other resource which may correspond in accordance with the law.



## **Article 11**

### Auditing

The control of the legality of expenses and the financial control over the consortium will be carried out by means of audit performed by an auditor appointed by the Government of Catalonia.

## **Article 12**

### Personnel

The consortium should have the appropriate personnel contingent to attend to its functional requirements, and which should be selected in accordance with the principles of publication, merit and capacity. Staff and personnel are protected under the current employment laws.

## **Article 13**

### Right of separation

Any member of the consortium may agree to separate him or herself from the consortium, with prior notification to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and with the minimum of six months advance notification in respect of the end of each financial year, without prejudice to the completion of his or her specific responsibilities for the financial year in course.

## **Article 14**

### Modification of the bylaws and dissolution

The modification of these bylaws and the dissolution of the consortium should be approved by the Board of Directors and ratified by the body or bodies represented by the members of the Board who have voted in favour of same.

In the event of the dissolution of the consortium being agreed upon, the Board of Directors should determine the form in which this is to be carried out including the liquidation of its assets.