



THE STATUTE

The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization

THE STATUTE FOR THE WORLD SMART SUSTAINABLE CITIES ORGANIZATION

(As adopted at the Inaugural WeGO General Assembly on the 7th of September 2010 and amended on the 13th of November 13, 2012 and on the 5th of November, 2014 and on the 28th of June, 2017, and on the 18th of October, 2021)

PREAMBLE

The cities and local governments of the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization, formerly known as the World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (hereinafter referred to as “the Organization”),

Recognizing the necessity to lay a foundation for a sustainable development model by integrating information technology into public administration,

Recalling the Seoul e-Government Declaration adopted on the 8th day of July, 2008 at the World e-Government Mayors Forum, whose plans of action embody the consent to form a body for global e-Governments that aims to share e-government practices and strengthen the solidarity, exchanges, and cooperation among cities,

Accepting what was agreed on the 29th day of September, 2009 at the World Cities CIO Forum, a preliminary meeting for establishing the World e-Governments Organization,

Also accepting what was agreed on the 28th day of June, 2017 to expand the scope of our organization's mission to include e-Government as part of Smart Government inside the framework of Smart Sustainable Cities,

Also accepting what was agreed on the 18th day of October, 2021 in response to global pandemic(COVID-19) and in alignment with WeGO 2030 Vision,

Wishing to preserve the quality of life of citizens as well as support sustainable city development through the shared experiences in e-government practices and by making contributions to the international city community,

Have agreed as follows:

Part I

General Provisions

ARTICLE 1

Purpose

This Statute aims to stipulate the structure and general operation of the Organization established to promote smart sustainable urban development for all citizens by enhancing the digital capabilities of cities and leveraging their innovation potentials in order to develop transformative solutions for Smart Sustainable Cities, in addition to fostering international exchange and cooperation and learning among local governments, corporations, and institutions.

ARTICLE 2

Legal Scope of the Statute

Nothing in this Statute may be applied and interpreted as affecting in any way the legal provisions of any member city.

ARTICLE 3

Use of Terms

For the purpose of this Statute:

- (a) "Smart Sustainable Cities" refers to innovative cities that leverage digital technology and connectivity to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and economic prosperity, while ensuring long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability;
- (b) "Cities and local governments (hereinafter referred to as "cities")" refers to the local authority which administers public affairs relating to the lives and well-being of citizens within the territory of its jurisdiction;
- (c) "Mayor" refers to a head of the executive authority of cities regardless of differences in ways of using the title; and
- (d) "Corporate" refers to all private sector businesses, including small to medium enterprises to large multinational corporations.

ARTICLE 4

Projects of the Organization

In accordance with its goal of improving the quality of life of citizens stipulated in article 1, the Organization shall conduct the projects to:

- (a) Share and disseminate best smart sustainable city practices between and among cities;
- (b) Conduct research to bridge the digital-divide among citizens and cities;
- (c) Promote the use of information technology to innovate the administrative process, improve online public service, and enhance administrative transparency;
- (d) Exchange officials between and among cities and create business models utilizing information technology through public-private partnerships;
- (e) Analyze and implement good practices in smart sustainable city by conducting agreements with public government organizations, corporations, and other stakeholders; and
- (f) Conduct other functions as deemed necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the intentions and purposes of the Organization.

Part II

Membership

ARTICLE 5

Membership Categories

1. The membership categories of the Organization are as follows:

- (a) Full member refers to any city which attended the Inaugural General Assembly or whose membership application was approved by the Executive Committee.
- (b) Associate member refers to any city which submitted the membership application but whose membership has not yet been approved by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Institutional member refers to national and regional associations, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and research organizations that are directly concerned with local smart sustainable development issues; whose membership was approved by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Corporate member refers to any corporation whose membership was approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6

Rights of Members

1. WeGO members as in the defined category below shall pay a corresponding annual membership fee and shall have corresponding rights specified for each category.

- (a) Full members shall have the right to take part in discussion, vote, approve, decide on, and confirm in the General Assembly on matters of, including but not limited to, the election of the president city and the agenda concerning the Statute, projects, and annual membership fees.
- (b) Associate members may attend regular sessions of the General Assembly and present their opinions on matters of, including but not limited to, the Statute, projects and annual membership fees.
- (c) Institutional members may attend regular sessions of the General Assembly, and present their opinions.
- (d) Corporate members may attend regular sessions of the General Assembly, and present their opinions.

ARTICLE 7

Membership Accession, Suspension, Termination and Withdrawal

1. Any city wishing to join the Organization shall submit a membership application form to the Secretariat and has to receive approval from the Executive Committee.
2. Any member may withdraw from the Organization by submitting a written notice of withdrawal to the Secretariat. Withdrawal of membership shall take effect upon the date the President announces the city's withdrawal to the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee may suspend the membership of a member whose conduct proves incompatible with the objectives of the Organization such as the member's membership fees remain in arrears without reasonable cause and explanation or if the member fails to attend the regular sessions of the General Assembly without reasonable cause and explanation. A suspended member has the right of appeal to the General Assembly and the decision shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
4. A member whose membership is suspended for a period of one year or more under the provision of Article 7.3 hereof shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the organization unless such suspension is earlier revoked by the Executive Committee.
5. A member whose conduct proves incompatible with the objectives of the Organization shall notwithstanding Article 7.4 be liable to termination of membership. A terminated member has the right of appeal to the General Assembly and any decision allowing such appeal shall be made by a two-third majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE 8

Membership Fees

1. Full members of the Organization shall begin to pay annual membership fees as prescribed in Annex 1, starting from the following year they are admitted to the Organization.
2. Institutional members of the Organization shall begin to pay annual membership fees as prescribed in Annex 2, starting from the following year they are admitted to the Organization.
3. Corporate members of the Organization shall begin to pay annual membership fees as prescribed in Annex 3, starting from the following year they are admitted to the Organization.

ARTICLE 9

Refund of Membership Fees and Other Expenses

Membership fees and other expenses paid by a member shall not be refunded in the case of withdrawal from or suspension of membership.

1. Provided that the Executive Committee may as its sole discretion remit, reduce and or commute either for any period of time or otherwise the annual fee payable by any member for purpose of alleviating economic and financial hardship to any members for the purpose of rectifying any anomaly.

Part III

Organs

ARTICLE 10

General Assembly

1. The General Assembly consists of all full member cities and shall be the top-level decision-making body of the Organization. The General Assembly shall have the power to decide on, approve, and confirm the following matters:

- (a) Amendments to the Statute;
- (b) Financial support for projects and programmes;
- (c) Consultation and decision on cooperative projects among cities to be funded with the revenue of the Organization;
- (d) Election of the president city and the Executive Committee members;
- (e) Selection of the host city of the next General Assembly; and
- (f) Any other matters related to the structure and operation of the Organization.

2. A regular session of the General Assembly of WeGO convenes every three (3) years, and the host city of the next General Assembly shall be selected by the General Assembly or by the Executive Committee in the years the General Assembly is not convened.

3. The date of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be determined by the Executive Committee in full consideration of the preferred dates of the host city. The Secretariat of the Organization shall announce the date of the General Assembly to all members at the earliest reasonable time.

4. Any member city intending to host the next General Assembly shall notify the Secretariat with an official proposal at least one (1) month before the date of the Executive Committee Meeting preceding the next General Assembly or earlier.

5. The selected host city of the General Assembly shall make an agreement with the Secretariat within (6) months after being selected or forfeit their selection as the host.
6. The host city of the next General Assembly shall prepare for and host the Executive Committee meeting in the same year the General Assembly is convened. In the event that there is no candidate WeGO member city wishing to host the other annual Executive Committee Meetings, the President City will be the host city. The annual membership fee of the General Assembly host city will be waived commencing in the year immediately following such city's selection as the host city until the end of the year in which the General Assembly hosted by such city takes place.
7. If a city designated to host the regular session of the General Assembly is affected by an event of *force majeure* and is unable to host or deemed incapable of hosting the meeting by the Executive Committee or the President City, an alternative date and venue of the General Assembly shall be decided by the Executive Committee. In the event that a host is not selected, the General Assembly will convene at the President City.
8. The President may convene a special session of the General Assembly with a simple majority approval of the members of the Executive Committee. The special session shall be held in the president city.

ARTICLE 11

Presidents, Executive Vice President, and Vice Presidents

1. The Organization may have one (1) or more President Cities.
2. The vice president cities shall consist of an executive vice president city and two (2) vice president cities.
3. The president city shall be elected at the General Assembly, and in the event of 2 or more candidates, the city receiving the largest number of votes shall become the president cities. In case of Co-presidency, the selection method will be decided by Executive Committee Members.
4. The next host city of the General Assembly will automatically be appointed as the executive vice president city and vice president cities shall be appointed by the president cities from among cities nominated by the Executive Committee. The appointment of the executive vice president city and vice president cities will be made in consideration of active participation in the Organization's activities, membership fee payment status, and equitable geographical distribution as much as possible.
5. Any full member city that has fully paid membership fees and wishes to be elected as President shall notify the Secretariat in writing of its candidacy two (2) months prior to the General Assembly where the election will be held, and the Secretariat shall subsequently announce the candidacy to all members at the earliest reasonable time prior to the General Assembly.
6. The elected president cities and the appointed vice president cities shall serve a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected or re-appointed, respectively.
7. The mayors of the elected president city and appointed vice president cities shall become the President and Vice Presidents of the Organization, respectively.
8. The President shall supervise and represent the Organization and shall chair the meetings. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President. In cases when the President is absent from meetings or other scheduled events due to illness or any other reason, the functions and duties of the President shall be carried out by the Executive Vice President.

9. In the event that a mayor of a president city or vice president city cease to hold their office as the head of their local governments before the term of the presidency of the Organization expires, their successors to office shall serve the remaining term of such term. Acting mayors of the president city and vice president city of the Organization may succeed as President or Vice Presidents of the Organization until new mayors begin their terms of office.

10. If a city resigns from the position of the President of the Organization, the Executive Vice President shall serve the remaining term of the President, and the city nominated at the earliest meeting of the Executive Committee to be convened after the resignation of President shall succeed as Executive Vice President of the Organization.

11. If a city resigns from the position of the Executive Vice President, the President shall appoint a replacement among the vice president cities.

12. If a city resigns from the position of Vice President, the President shall appoint a replacement among members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 12

Executive Committee

1. The Organization shall have the Executive Committee comprising fifteen (15) or less cities including the president city(s) and vice president cities, excluding the executive vice president. The executive vice president when automatically appointed in addition to a full fifteen-member Executive Committee may become the sixteenth member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee provides support for the projects and assists in the operation of the Organization.

2. The Executive Committee's duties include the following matters:

- (a) Approval of new membership, suspension, termination and withdrawal of existing membership;
- (b) Review of financial support and expenses for projects and programmes;
- (c) Review of annual report on the activities of the Organization;
- (d) Nomination of vice president cities;
- (e) Decision on cooperative projects aimed at promoting common interests of member cities to be funded with the revenue of the Organization;
- (f) Decision on the host city of the next General Assembly in years when the General Assembly is not convened;
- (g) Approval/Disapproval of regional offices;
- (h) Approval of operational expenses to be paid with the revenue of the Organization;
- (i) Selection of the host city of the next Executive Committee Meeting;
- (j) Reduction of remit of membership;
- (k) Any other matters or discussions related to the structure and operation of the Organization.

3. The Executive Committee may hold regular meetings and special meetings. Regular meetings shall be held every year.

4. Any member city may join the Executive Committee by notifying the Secretariat in writing of its candidacy two (2) months prior to the General Assembly. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly in consideration of active participation in the Organization's activities, membership fee payment status, and equitable geographical distribution as much as possible.

5. Any member of the Executive Committee may convene a meeting of the Executive Committee with the written consent from more than half of its members. The special meeting of the Executive Committee meeting shall be held in the city that requested the meeting.
6. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve a term of three (3) years and may serve additional terms.
7. The Secretary General of the Secretariat may give advice at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
8. If a city resigns from the membership of the Executive Committee, another city nominated to replace the resigned city at the next Executive Committee meeting shall become the new Executive Committee member.
9. In determining the next host city of the General Assembly of WeGO, the Executive Committee shall consider the followings:
 - (a) Objectives and vision of candidate cities
 - (b) Regional balance of past host cities
 - (c) Financial status of candidate cities
 - (d) Quality of hosting proposal presentation
10. If 2 or more cities wish to host the next General Assembly, the city receiving the largest number of votes shall be decided as the next host city.
11. When there is no candidate member city wishing to host the next General Assembly or no decision has been reached on which city will host the next General Assembly, the President City(s) shall host the General Assembly.
12. When there is no candidate member city wishing to host the next regular session of Executive Committee Meeting or no decision has been reached on which city will host the next regular session of Executive Committee Meeting, the President City(s) shall host the Executive Committee Meeting.

ARTICLE 13

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat of the Organization shall perform the functions and duties assigned to it by the General Assembly and by the Executive Committee, submit to the Executive Committee at each regular session an annual report on the activities of the Organization and its financial matters, and provide other administrative services to the members of the Organization.
2. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the President or by consensus of the Presidents.
3. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General shall serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed.
4. In the event that the office of Secretary General becomes vacant, the Assistant Secretary General shall assume the duties of the Secretary General until a new Secretary General is appointed.

5. The Secretariat shall be established in Seoul and may be extended to another city or cities by consensus of the Presidents. The Organization may decide to set up regional offices through a bidding process; any member city that wishes to host a regional office may participate in the bidding process.

6. Establishment and Dissolution of WeGO Regional Offices

- (a) The Executive Committee shall approve the establishment of regional offices for a term of five (5) years. If two (2) or more cities wish to establish a regional office in the same region, the regional office in the city receiving the largest number of votes shall be decided as the new regional office. At the end of the (5) year term, regional offices must rebid along with other member cities to the Executive Committee for a new term.
- (b) The Executive Committee may rescind the establishment of a Regional Office pursuant to the initial and annual assessments to be conducted under the Terms of Reference for the WeGO Regional Office or in the event that the Executive Committee decides that the conduct, omission, or negligence of the Regional Office causes harm to the mission or purpose and/or reputation of the Organization. The Organization and the WeGO Secretariat shall not be liable to indemnify such dissolved Regional Office or its host city for any loss or damages sustained by such dissolution.

7. Each Regional office is an affiliated organization of the Secretariat that supports the functions of the Secretariat, facilitates the implementation of projects of the Organization, and manages members in the respective region. Each regional office shall submit an annual report on its operational progress to the Secretariat two (2) months prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

8. The city where the regional office is located shall appoint a Regional Director of the regional office. The regional office shall consist of one team with the Regional Director, Deputy Director, and at least two (2) other staff members and abide by the Terms of Reference for the WeGO Regional Office.

Part IV

Finance

ARTICLE 14

Revenue

1. The revenue of the Organization shall consist of:

- (a) Annual membership fees paid by full members, institutional members, and corporate members;
- (b) Voluntary donations from members and non-members, including in sponsorship of activities and project implementation.

2. The revenue shall not include:

- (a) Annual contributions from the President City(s);
- (b) Any other form of financial and in-kind support from the President City; and

- (c) Funds raised from sponsors for specific events and activities.

ARTICLE 15

Expenditure

1. The Organization may spend the revenue for the following expenses:
 - (a) Operational Expense
 - (i) The Expenses for convening the meetings specified in paragraph 7 and 8 of Article 10 may be covered by the revenue of the Organization within the limit of less than 50% of the total costs with the approval of the General Assembly or Executive Committee.
 - (ii) The president city(s) of the Organization shall be primarily responsible for expenses for operating the Secretariat. Expenses for running the Secretariat, including the expenses for hiring the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, shall also be borne by the revenue of the Organization. In the case that member cities send their staff to the Secretariat, the sending cities bear the salaries and all living costs of their seconded staff to the Secretariat.
 - (iii) Other expenses approved by the Executive Committee for the effective management of the Organization may be paid by the revenue of the Organization.
 - (b) Project Expenses
 - (i) Expenses for conducting joint projects between and among cities shall be shared among cities participating in the project concerned. Expenses for joint projects between and among cities approved by the General Assembly attended by more than half of the total members may be paid in part from the revenue of the Organization with the consent of more than half of the members present at the session in consideration of the purpose and envisaged benefits of the project.
 - (ii) With the approval from the Executive Committee, the Organization may use its revenue for expenses for activities carried out in the common interest of members, including, but not limited to, conferences and expos, regional networks, training programs, project implementation, and services.
 - (iii) The president city(s) of the Organization is primarily responsible for expenses of projects and programmes implemented for the purpose of promoting the Organization and its activities.
2. The Organization shall not pay for expenses incurred by the following:
 - (a) Expenses for the General Assembly
Expenses required to convene the sessions of the General Assembly other than specified in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Article 10, shall be borne by the host city.
 - (b) Expenses for the Executive Committee
The expenses for convening regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be borne by the host city.
 - (c) Expenses for the Regional Offices
Expenses required for setting up and operating the regional offices, including the salaries of the Regional Directors, Deputy Directors, and staff of regional offices, shall be borne by the cities where the regional offices are located.

Part V

General Rules

ARTICLE 16

Quorum

1. Unless otherwise specified herein, each motion at the General Assembly and the Executive Committee shall be considered adopted with the attendance of one fourth or more of the total members of the Organization and the Executive Committee, respectively, and with the concurrence of one half or more of the members present.
2. Each full member shall have one vote for each motion.
3. Resolution by written consent: When the Executive Committee is not in session, it may make decisions by written consent. Unless otherwise specified herein, in such cases, motions shall be considered adopted with the written consent of half or more members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 17

Amendments

1. Any full member may initiate or the Secretary General may submit a proposal to amend provisions in the Statute.
2. Amendment proposal shall be submitted to the Secretariat no later than three (3) months prior to the date of the General Assembly where the amendment proposal will be discussed. The Secretary General shall circulate the proposal in written form to all members one (1) month before the date of the General Assembly where the amendment will be proposed.

ARTICLE 18

Mandate of the President

Decisions relating to management and implementation of projects and programmes of the Organization not stipulated in the Statute shall be taken up by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Part VI

Miscellaneous Provisions

ARTICLE 19

Fiscal Year of the Organization

The fiscal year of the Organization shall begin on the first of January and end on the thirty-first of December of every year.

ARTICLE 20

Dissolution of the Organization

1. The dissolution of the Organization may be proclaimed by the General Assembly convened for this purpose, with a three-fourths vote of the full members of the Organization present and voting at such meeting.
2. In case of dissolution, the Organization assets shall be allocated in accordance with the specific wishes of the General Assembly, to an organization having a similar purpose or to other recipients considered to meet the objectives of the Organization.

ARTICLE 21

Official Language

The official language of the Organization is English without restrictions on the use of other languages if translation service into English is provided.

ARTICLE 22

Entry into Force

This Statute shall come into force upon the approval from members of the Organization participating in the Inaugural General Assembly held on the 7th day of September, 2010 in Seoul.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Article 1(Enforcement)

This Statute takes effect with approval by the General Assembly.

Article 2 (Membership Fees Application Criteria)

Membership fees for years 2012 to 2022 shall be calculated in accordance with the previous criteria. The revised criteria on annual membership fees in Paragraph 1 of Article 8 shall be effective in 2023.

Annex 1. Membership Fee Criteria to take effect on local government members from 2023 (USD)

GDP per capita (PPP) \ Population ('000)	Population ('000)									
	0 - 49	50 - 199	200 - 299	300 - 599	600 - 999	1,000 - 1,999	2,000 - 3,999	4,000 - 6,999	7,000 - 9,999	10,000+
0-999	400				500		600		700	
0-1,999	400		500		600		700		800	
2,000-3,999	400	450	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,250
4,000-5,999	500	500	700	1,000	1,300	1,600	1,900	2,200	2,500	3,000
6,000-7,999	900	1,200	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000
8,000-9,999	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,500
10,000-14,999	2,500	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000	6,500	7,000
15,000-19,999	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000	6,500	7,000	7,500	8,000
20,000+	4,000	5,000	6,000	6,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	8,500	8,500	10,000

Annex 2. Membership Fee Criteria to take effect on institutional members from 2023 (USD)

Type of Institution	Criteria (GDP per capita (PPP) of Located Country (USD) or No. of Employees)	Annual Membership Fee (USD)
Associations and Alliances <i>Includes all international and domestic associations and alliances comprised of member national or subnational local governments, corporations, and institutions focused on smart city and other relevant topics, such as sustainable urban development</i>		
National and Subnational Public Agencies <i>Includes all individual national and subnational government agencies and government entities, including development and corporation agencies, with a mandate to formulate and implement strategies and projects for smart city development and achievement of other relevant goals, such as sustainable urban development</i>	0 - 1,999 USD 2,000 - 4,999 USD 5,000 - 7,999 USD 8,000 - 9,999 USD 10,000 - 14,999 USD 15,000 - 19,999 USD 20,000+ USD	750 1,000 1,500 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000
Academic Institutions <i>Includes all international and domestic academic institutions, such as universities, think tanks, and research organizations</i>		
Non-Profit Organizations <i>Includes all international and domestic individual non-profit organizations focused on promoting sustainable urban development</i>	0 - 9 Employees 10 - 49 Employees 50 - 99 Employees 100 - 499 Employees 500+ Employees	1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000

Annex 3. Membership Fee Criteria to take effect on corporate members from 2023 (USD)

Category	Criteria (No. of Employees Worldwide)	Annual Membership Fee (USD)
Multinational Corporation (MNC)	2000+ Employees	8,000
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME)	500-1999 Employees	5,000
	300-499 Employees	2,500
	1-299 Employees	2,000
Startup	21+ Employees	2,000
	11-20 Employees	1,500
	1-10 Employees	1,000