STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION
JERUSALEM 1982

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(A) THE STATUS OF THE ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 1

The Jurisdiction of the General Council

Article 30, Section 1 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization reads as follows:

"Save for those matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Congress, the Council shall in inter-Congress periods consider and decide upon all matters relating to the World Zionist Organization and its institutions. In particular, the Council shall inspect and, in so far as it is necessary, decide upon the manner in which the Executive shall implement the decisions of the Congress and the Council."

(B) DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 2

The terms used in the following regulations shall have the meaning attached to them in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, unless some other meaning is indicated by a regulation or the context.

"Presidium" means Presidium of the Zionist General Council.

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Zionist General Council, or the Chairman presiding over a plenary meeting of the General Council, or the Chairman of one of the Committees of the General Council, as the case may be.

(C) PRESIDUIUM

Section 3

Composition

The number of the members of the Presidium, apart from the Chairman, shall not exceed 20. In this number shall not be included the representatives of Jewish International Bodies (Articles 3 and 5, Section 4 of the Constitution) which are entitled to one member each on the Presidium of the Council.¹

¹ Amended according to Resolution 2 of the General Council in March 1978.
Section 4

Functions

Para. 1: The functions of the Presidium shall be as follows:

(a) to fix, in consultation with the Executive, the date, place, duration of the sessions of the General Council and, jointly with the Executive, its agenda;
(b) to conduct the sessions of the General Council;
(c) to represent the General Council in its internal and external relations;
(d) to discharge the functions imposed upon it by the laws of the World Zionist Organization;
(e) to deal with and decide upon matters referred to it by the Congress or the General Council.

Para. 2: In order to fulfill its tasks, the Presidium shall maintain permanent contact with the Executive and receive from it all the information required for that purpose. The Chairman of the General Council shall be invited to those meetings of the Executive in which the date, place or the agenda of the General Council Session will be dealt with. At the invitation of the Chairman of the Executive the Chairman of the Zionist General Council shall participate in meetings of the Executive dealing with basic problems of the Zionist Movement. Should the Presidium deem it appropriate to consult the Executive on a certain subject, it may propose to the Executive to hold a joint meeting. The date of the joint meeting shall be fixed as soon as possible by mutual agreement of both bodies.

Para. 3: The Executive shall assist the Presidium in carrying out its activities and for this purpose place at its disposal the staff of the Organizational Department and the necessary means.

Para. 4: In periods between the sessions, the functions of the Presidium shall be discharged by its members domiciled in Israel. The places of members of the Presidium domiciled abroad shall be filled, in periods between the sessions, by deputies domiciled in the State of Israel who shall be elected by the General Council together with members of the Presidium. However, in the decision upon the date and place of the session of the General Council, all the members of the Presidium shall participate. The vote may also be taken in writing or by cable.

Para. 5: Not earlier than three days before the opening of the session of the General Council, the full Presidium shall meet at the place of the session, in order to lay down, in consultation with the Executive, the details of the arrangements for the session.

Para. 6: If the Presidium or the Executive propose to hold the session

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1 Sentence inserted according to Resolution 18(a) of the General Council in January 1966.
outside the State of Israel and there is no agreement between the two bodies on this point, the majority of the individual votes cast by members of both bodies shall decide. The vote may also be taken in writing or by cable.

(D) SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 5

Participation in the Sessions

Para. 1: Subject to the provisions of Article 32 of the Constitution, apart from the members of the General Council, persons whose attendance is deemed essential by the Executive or the Presidium may be invited to the session. Those invited shall be granted the privilege of taking part in the deliberations, without vote, in accordance with the decision of the Presidium.

Para. 2: The Executive may, with the consent of the Presidium, invite to the session heads of Zionist Territorial Organizations whose affairs are on the agenda of the session. Those invited shall take part in the session in an advisory capacity.

Section 6

Term of the Session

Subject to Article 36 of the Constitution, the ordinary sessions of the General Council shall be held every year not later than in the month of March.³

Section 7

Invitations

Para. 1: Invitations to the sessions shall be sent at least five weeks prior to the date of the opening. The invitations shall specify the day of opening, the place and the duration of the session.

Para. 2: In urgent cases, the Presidium, in consultation with the Executive, may decide to reduce, but not to less than 14 days, the interval between the sending of the invitation and the opening of the session. The reasons for this decision shall be indicated in the invitation.

³ Amended according to Resolution 38 of the General Council in January 1967.
Section 8

**Extension of the Duration of the Session**

After the opening of the session, its duration may be extended by a resolution in the presence of at least two-thirds of the members of the General Council entitled to vote by a majority of two thirds of those present entitled to vote.

Section 9

**Agenda**

*Para. 1:* At least seventy days prior to the opening of the session, the Presidium, jointly with the Executive, shall set the agenda of the session. For this purpose, the Presidium and the Executive shall set up a joint committee whose final proposal is subject to confirmation by the Presidium and the Executive, which may introduce changes into this proposal. The Presidium shall notify thereof those to be invited in accordance with Section 5, all Zionist Territorial Organizations, all Zionist Territorial and Inter-Territorial Associations (Articles 1 and 5, Section 5 of the Constitution) and National and International Bodies (Articles 1 and 5, Section 4 of the Constitution).

*Para. 1A:* The number of the subjects on the agenda to be determined in this manner shall not exceed two.

*Para. 2:* The Executive shall give a concise explanation of the subjects included in the agenda which, as far as possible, shall be enclosed with the notification of the agenda sent by the Presidium or dispatched at least 3 weeks before the opening of the session under separate cover to those indicated in Para. 1.

*Para. 3:* Twenty members of the General Council or through the Executive – a Zionist Territorial Organization, may request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda. Such request shall clearly define the subjects and include, as far as possible, the text of the draft-proposals to be submitted in connection with these subjects. The requests shall reach the Executive at least 14 days prior to the opening of the session. The decision on the request shall be taken by the full Presidium jointly with the Executive. Five members of the General Council or the Territorial Zionist Organization, who had submitted the request, may appeal in writing against the Presidium's decision to the General Council within 24 hours after being notified of the decision. The appeal shall be lodged in two copies. The Presidium shall bring the appeal before the General Council at the beginning of its second meeting. The General Council shall decide after hearing one representative each of the appellants and of the Presidium for no more

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4 Amended according to Resolution 13 of the General Council in June 1980.
5 Para. 1A inserted according to Resolution 13 of the General Council in June 1980.
than 5 minutes each. The decision of the General Council shall be final.

Para. 4: In the course of the session a new item may be included in the agenda only under exceptional circumstances, at the joint request of the Executive and the Presidium. The General Council shall decide on such proposal without any debate by a two-thirds majority of its members entitled to vote.

Section 10

Deliberations at the Sessions of the General Council

Para. 1: The deliberations at the sessions of the Zionist General Council shall be divided into the following four stages:

(a) the first stage – the inauguration of the session, the opening speech of the President of the World Zionist Organization, the general report of the Chairman of the Zionist Executive, the addresses of the members of the Executive heading departments whose affairs have been included in the agenda, deliberations on the annual budget in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution (Articles 14(d), 30, Sections 3(a) and (b)), discussions arising from addresses on specific questions of the Zionist Movement included in the agenda, election of the Committees;

(b) second stage – meetings of the Committees;

(c) third stage – reports of the Committees and vote on the motions submitted by them;

(d) fourth stage – concluding addresses.

Para. 1A: The Presidium may decide, by a majority of two-thirds of those voting, on changing the above-mentioned division into stages if another arrangement appears to be appropriate in view of the agenda, or due to another important reason.6

Para. 2: Insofar as the agenda shall not have laid down time limits for the termination of each of the above stages, the Presidium may fix such limits. If a Committee should fail to terminate its deliberations in time, the Presidium, after consulting the Chairman of the Committee concerned, may decide that the plenary meeting shall vote on the motions, the consideration of which was not completed by the Committee by the deadline. Such decision of the plenary meeting shall be reached after hearing one member of the Committee for and another against the proposal, each for no more than 5 minutes.

6 Para 1A inserted according to Resolution 13 of the General Council in June 1980.
**Section 11**

*Public Nature of the Meetings*

The plenary meetings of the Zionist General Council shall be open to the public. The Zionist General Council may decide, at the joint request of the Presidium and the Executive, to deal with certain subjects in a closed meeting. In the debate on a proposal to such effect, one member may speak in support of and another in opposition to the proposal, each for no more than 5 minutes. The Presidium may resolve that such debate should take place in a closed meeting.

**Section 12**

*Order of the Deliberations*

The Presidium shall determine the time allotted for the deliberation on all subjects together, or on each subject separately, as well as the division of time between addresses and debate, and the allocation of time to parties (groupings), members of the Executive and other participants. The time available should be divided in such a way that no more than one hour shall be allocated to the address of the speaker introducing the subject and to his/her reply; of the remainder of the time, three-quarters shall be accorded to the parties (groupings) of the General Council, in proportion to their numerical representation on the Council, and one-quarter to all those attending the session in an advisory capacity.

**Section 13**

*Motions on Points of Procedure and on the Mode of Voting*

Motions concerning points of procedure and the mode of voting may be submitted to the Chairman at any time. Motions on the mode of voting may also be made orally. The Chairman shall give the floor to the proponent in support of his/her motion for no more than 2 minutes beyond the fixed agenda, having regard to the urgency of the matter, and, if necessary, immediately after the speaker who has the floor shall have finished speaking.

**Section 14**

*Motion of Amendment*

A motion of amendment shall be put to the vote prior to the vote on the main motion. In the event of the motion of the amendment being carried, the main motion shall be put to the vote in the amended form.
Section 15

**Powers of the Chairman**

**Para. 1:** The speakers shall limit themselves to the subjects on the agenda of the session and, in the case of separate deliberations on various subjects, to the specific subject dealt with at the stage of the proceedings concerned.

**Para. 2:** In the event of an infringement of these rules, the Chairman shall admonish the speaker to keep to the point. If this admonition remains unheeded, the Chairman may warn the speaker he/she will be ordered to withdraw from the floor, if he/she should continue to be out of order. In case of further disobedience, the Chairman may interrupt the speaker and order him/her to withdraw from the floor.

**Para. 3:** Those attending the session (Section 5) shall comply with the rulings of the Chairman. The Chairman may use any means appropriate to the circumstances, in order to ensure the maintenance of order during the deliberations of the session and to safeguard the dignity of the General Council. Grave cases shall be decided by the Presidium.

Section 17

**Resolutions and Voting**

**Para. 1:** The Zionist General Council may resolve:
(a) to remove a motion from the agenda;
(b) to reject a motion;
(c) to postpone the voting on a motion to another date;
(d) to refer a motion to the Executive for deliberation;
(e) to adopt a motion in its entirety or partially.

**Para. 2:** By order of the Chairman or at the request of the proponent, voting shall take place separately on each part of the motion or on some parts together, and afterwards the whole motion shall be put to vote.

Section 18

**Mode of Voting**

**Para. 1:** Voting may take place only in meetings designated for voting in the agenda, or by a decision of the Presidium; in the latter event, only if the Presidium shall have announced the date not later than at the previous meeting. In urgent cases, the Presidium may make such announcements at the beginning of the meeting in which the vote shall be taken.

**Para. 2:** In meetings at which voting is to take place, no changes of the
text of the motion shall be proposed, unless previously dealt with by a Committee, apart from changes of wording or style.

Para. 3: In default of special provisions, motions shall be carried by a majority of votes of those taking part in the vote. In case of a tie, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Para. 4: The order of the voting shall be determined by the Chairman.

Para. 5: Voting shall be by show of hands; by order of the Chairman, or at the request of a member of the General Council, the member cards shall be shown.

Para. 6: Voting shall be by roll call or by secret written ballot, if so requested by 20 members of the General Council entitled to vote, or by the Presidium, or by the Executive.

Para. 7: If, in the opinion of the Chairman, a motion put to vote has been adopted or rejected by a majority of votes, the votes shall not be counted, except upon demand of a member of the General Council.

Para. 8: If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there are doubts as to the result of voting, he/she may appoint tellers from among the members of the General Council or officials of the Executive and determine anew the result of the vote on the basis of the figures reported by the tellers. At the request of the proponents of the motion, a second vote shall be taken.

Para. 9: In the period between two sessions, voting by members of the General Council may be taken in writing or by cable, if the Presidium, after consultation with the Executive, decides that it is necessary to take voting in such a way. The results of such voting shall not be valid, unless at least 50% of the members of the General Council with voting rights shall have taken part in it.

Section 19

Elections

Para. 1: If a session of the Zionist General Council or one of its Committees is charged with choosing a person for a certain office or function, the candidate who shall have polled the majority of votes cast shall be regarded as elected.

Para. 2: In the election of the Presidium of the Zionist General Council and in elections of governing bodies of the World Zionist Organization, by virtue of a delegation of powers of the Congress to the General Council, a vote shall be taken only for and against the total list of candidates submitted to the General Council. The decision shall
be taken by a majority of votes cast.

Para. 2A: Notwithstanding the provisions of Para. 2, the Zionist General Council is entitled to delegate to another institution or body its powers to elect members of governing bodies of the World Zionist Organization, whose numbers shall not exceed four, provided that the General Council specified in its authorization the category to which the person to be elected should belong, and provided that the resolution on the authorization has been adopted in the presence of the majority of the members of the Council entitled to vote, by a two-thirds majority of those voting.7

Para. 3: If no such majority has been obtained, a new total list shall be submitted to the General Council.

Para. 4: The provisions of Paras. 2 and 3 shall also apply to the election of Committees of a session.

Section 20

Interpellations

Para. 1: Each member of the General Council may submit an interpellation to the President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman of the Executive, a member of the Executive, or the Chairman of the Board of Directors of a national fund, regarding some factual matter which concerns the Movement as a whole or the field of activity of the person being interpellated. The interpellation shall be put in writing, signed by the interpellant and submitted in two copies in the course of the first stage of the deliberations of the General Council (Section 10, Para. 1(a)) to the Presidium, which shall convey it to the person being interpellated. This time limit shall not apply to interpellations regarding urgent matters arising in the course of the session.

Para. 2: The interpellation shall be couched in such a way as not to be insulting.

Para. 3: The person being interpellated may refuse to reply to the interpellation if a reply in general or a reply in public is liable to be against the interest of the Zionist Movement. The person being interpellated shall inform the interpellant of his/her refusal through the Presidium and indicate the reasons for it.

7 Para. 2A inserted according to Resolution 18 of the General Council in January 1966.
Para. 4: No debate shall be held on the reply, unless the Executive of the Presidium demand it, or the Zionist General Council so decides, after hearing one speaker in support and one in opposition, for no more than 3 minutes. The Presidium shall fix the meting at which the debate shall take place.

Para. 5: In the period between two sessions of the General Council, any member of the General Council may submit an interpellation as indicated above, through the Chairman of the General Council. The person interpellated shall reply in writing through the Chairman of the General Council within 14 days from the receipt of the interpellation, and the Chairman of the Zionist General Council shall convey the reply to the interpellant without delay. Upon receipt of the reply, the interpellant may, at the next session of the General Council, put an additional question, in writing or orally, for clarification of the reply. The provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply to this question and to the reply to it.

Section 21

Minutes

Stenographic minutes shall be taken of the deliberations of sessions of the Zionist General Council. The minutes shall be printed and published in a manner to be determined by the Presidium, together with the Executive.

Section 22

Special Provisions regarding Deliberations on Budget and Finance

Para. 1: At the first session after each Congress, the General Council shall decide on the establishment and composition of the Permanent Budget and Finance Committee (hereinafter: The Committee).

Para. 1: It shall be incumbent on the Committee to deal with the Budgets submitted by the Executive and to prepare them for confirmation by the Congress or the General Council (Articles 14(d), 30, Section 3(a) and (b) of the Constitution). By virtue of a delegation of powers by the Congress or the General Council (Articles 15 and 31, Section 1 of the Constitution), the Committee may, in the course of the budgetary year, confirm items in a budget and changes of budget, according to a proposal of the Executive.
Section 22A

The Limit for Processing of Motions for Resolution

Para. 1: The motions of members of the General Council and Zionist Federations shall be submitted in writing, drafted and explained, not later than forty days prior to the opening of the session.

Para. 2: If the Presidium confirmed the urgency of a motion, it may also be submitted after the time limit mentioned above. According to Section 24, Para. 4, the Executive and the Presidium may submit motions at any time before the conclusion of the deliberations in the Committee concerned.

Para. 3: The motions submitted shall be brought to the notice of the members of the Council within a reasonable time. The Presidium or a sub-committee set up for this purpose shall classify and examine the motions submitted, in order to avoid duplication, and shall eliminate or limit motions which are of clearly declaratory character.\(^8\)

(E) COMMITTEES

Section 23

Setting up of the Session Committee

The General Council shall, in accordance with the proposal of the Presidium, elect from among its members Committees, having regard to the subjects on the agenda.

Section 24

The Work of the Committees

Para. 1: Each Committee shall elect at its first meeting a Chairman, and, if necessary, a Deputy Chairman or several Deputy Chairmen.

Para. 2: The meetings of the Committees shall not be open to the public. The President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman of the General Council, the members of the Presidium, the Chairman and the members of the Executive and the Comptroller shall be entitled to participate in the meetings of the Committees in an advisory capacity.

Para. 3: Members of the General Council who, without being members of a Committee, shall have submitted to it motions within the sphere of its competence and representatives of Zionist Territorial Organizations whose motions shall have been included on the agenda of the sessions, shall be invited by the Chairman of the Committee to participate in the

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\(^8\) Section 22A inserted according to Resolution 13 of the General Council in June 1980.
meeting at which their motions shall be dealt with.

Para. 4: The Executive shall submit its motions in an appropriate number of copies to the Chairman of the competent committee immediately after its establishment. Members of the Executive shall participate in the meetings of the Committees which deal with matters concerning their departments.

Para. 5: The Chairman shall reject motions which do not concern subjects on the agenda of the session, or do not come within the terms of reference of the Committee, or have been submitted too late. The proponents whose motions shall have been rejected may appeal to the Presidium within 24 hours. The Presidium may hear the appellant and the Chairman of the committee prior to its decision, which shall be final.

Para. 6: The speaking time of a member of a Committee shall not exceed 10 minutes. In special cases, the Chairman may extend it by an additional 5 minutes.

Para. 7: Members of the Committee, whose motions have not been adopted by the Committee, are entitled to submit a minority motion. They shall announce their intention of submitting a minority motion immediately after the vote in question, and shall submit it in writing to the Chairman or secretary of the Committee within a reasonable time.⁹

Para. 8: The Chairman of a Committee shall submit to the plenary meeting the motions adopted by his/her Committee. The Committee may elect a reporter who shall cooperate with the Chairman in submitting its motions to the plenary meeting.

Para. 9: If a minority motion shall have been registered, its proponent shall be given the floor in support thereof for no more than 5 minutes. The Chairman of the Committee concerned or a member of the Committee, appointed by the Chairman, shall reply on behalf of the Committee. No further discussions shall take place on the subject of the minority motion.

Para. 10: The President of the World Zionist Organization and members of the Executive whose spheres of activities are affected by the motions of the majority or minority, shall be given the floor for no more than 5 minutes, for the purpose of defining their position.

⁹ Amended according to Resolution 13 of the General Council in June 1980.
Para. 11: In the absence of special provisions regulating the procedure and voting in Committees, the provisions governing the procedure in the plenary meeting of the General Council shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*. The Chairman of a Committee shall have the powers of the Chairman presiding over a plenary meeting of the session.

Section 25

*Report of the Comptroller*

The report of the Comptroller shall be brought before the General Council at its annual session, in a manner to be determined by the Presidium.

Section 26

*Resolutions Committee*

Before the termination of the first stage of the session (Section 10, Para. 1(A)), the Presidium shall elect from its midst a Resolutions Committee consisting of 3 to 5 members. The Resolutions Committee shall examine the motions in respect of their wording and style. The Resolutions Committee is not entitled to examine the motions as to their substance, but after hearing the Chairman of the Committee concerned it may set aside or restrict motions of a purely declaratory character.

(F) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Section 27

*Extent of Reimbursement*

Para. 1: All members of the General Council and, in the case of non-participation in the session of members of the General Council, their deputies, shall be entitled to claim the reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with their participation in sessions of the General Council, according to the following rules:

(a) Passport and visa fees;
(b) Round trip travel expenses by ship, railway, and airplane, in accordance with details which shall be determined by the Executive;
(c) Expenses for every day of sojourn at the place of the session, within the limits to be fixed by the Executive with the consent of the Presidium.
Para. 2: In extraordinary cases, and in respect of those invited in accordance with Section 5, the reimbursement of expenses shall be decided upon by majority vote by a committee composed of 2 members of the Presidium and 2 members of the Executive. A tie vote by such committee shall constitute the rejection of the claim for the reimbursement of the expenses.

(G) AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDERS

Section 28

Requirements of the Validity of the Resolution

No resolution regarding the amendment of these Standing Orders shall be valid, unless the text of the proposed amendment had been included in the agenda which was brought to the knowledge of the members of the General Council, in accordance with Section 9, Para. 1.

(H) FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 29

Application of the Standing Orders of the Congress

In the absence of special provisions in these Standing Orders, the provisions of the Standing Orders of the Congress shall apply, mutatis mutandis.

Section 30

Repeal of the Standing Orders of the Zionist General Council 1952/53

With the adoption of these Standing Orders by the General Council, the Standing Orders of the General Council, as adopted at its session in November 1952, and amended by the Resolution of the General Council passed at its session in December 1953, shall cease to have validity.
Meeting
Attendance:
Physical
Attendance or by
other means;
Meeting Times;
Language of
Deliberations;
Availability of
Translations

**Regulation 10A**

(a) Any member entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Presidium, the Inner Executive, Extended Executive or the Budget and Finance Committee (each, a “World Zionist Organization Entity”) shall be permitted to participate and vote at such meeting, whether in person, by telephone, or by any electronic means (including, without limitation to, video conferencing) which is approved by (i) the General Council or (ii) the applicable World Zionist Organization Entity; provided, that each such World Zionist Organization Entity shall approve the use of electronic means for attendance and voting for its own meetings only, and not the meetings of any other World Zionist Organization Entity.

(b) To the extent reasonably practicable, each World Zionist Organization Entity shall hold its meetings during the regular business hours (the “Regular Business Hours”) of the time zones in which all the Participants reside; provided, that if this is not reasonably practicable, such meetings shall be held at a time within the Regular Business Hours of the majority of the Participants and at a time which minimizes the inconvenience to those Participants who reside in time zones other than those in which the majority of the Participants reside.

(c) The official language of record of the meetings of each World Zionist Organization Entity shall be Hebrew. Any business brought at such meetings of the above Entities may be conducted in Hebrew or English; provided, that the convening body shall provide for simultaneous or contemporaneous translation from Hebrew to English and English to Hebrew for all Participants attending such meetings in person and simultaneous or contemporaneous translations from Hebrew to English and English to Hebrew for all Participants attending by other means. Simultaneous or contemporaneous translation of Hebrew or English to any other language may be provided if the majority of the applicable World Zionist Organization Entity determines that such translation is reasonably necessary and practicable for the conduct of such meetings.

(d) All other rules, regulations and standing orders with respect to the functioning of the World Zionist Organization Bodies are hereby deemed amended without further action as necessitated by and in accordance with this regulation.