

STANDING ORDERS  
OF THE  
ZIONIST CONGRESS

Enacted by virtue of Article 28 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, in accordance with Resolution No. 85 (1) of the 25<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress in December 1960-January 1961, and adopted by the Zionist General Council at its Session in March 1963, and amended by the 26<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress in December 1964-January 1965 and the General Council at its Session in September 1981.

ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION  
JERUSALEM 1982

הודפס בדפוס הסוכנות היהודית  
ירושלים

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## A. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The terms specified hereinafter shall have the meaning attached Regulation 1  
to them in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, unless  
some other meaning is indicated by a provision of these Standing  
Orders or the context.

<i>"President"</i>	- means the President of the Congress.
<i>"Presidium"</i>	- means the Presidium of the Congress
<i>"Chairman"</i>	- means the Chairman of a Plenary Session of the Congress or the Chairman of one of the Committees of the Congress, as the case may be.
<i>"Constitution"</i>	- means the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization.

## B. AGENDA

- (a) The Executive together with the Presidium of the Zionist General Regulation 2  
Council shall fix the agenda of the Congress. For this purpose the  
Executive and the Presidium shall set up a joint committee whose  
proposal requires the approval of the Presidium and the Executive.  
They shall determine the final agenda in mutual coordination.  
Notification thereof shall be given by the Presidium<sup>1</sup> to all members  
of the Zionist General Council, all Zionist Territorial Organizations,  
Zionist Territorial and Inter-Territorial Associations (Articles 1 and 5,  
Section 2 of the Constitution) and National and International Bodies  
(Articles 1 and 5, Section 4 of the Constitution).
- (b) The Executive shall give an explanation of the subjects included  
in the agenda and of the proposals to be submitted to the  
Congress in connection therewith. The explanation, as far as  
possible, shall be enclosed with the notification of the agenda  
sent by the Executive, or it shall be sent under separate cover to  
all those mentioned in para (a), at least 5 weeks prior to the  
opening of the Congress.
- (c) 30 members of the General Council, a Zionist Territorial  
Organization, or a Zionist Inter-Territorial Association, may  
request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda. Such

<sup>1</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

request shall clearly define the subjects and include, as far as possible, the text of the proposals to be submitted in connection with these subjects. The request shall reach the Executive at least 3 weeks prior to the opening of the Congress. The decision on the request shall be taken by the Executive jointly with the full Presidium of the General Council.

Ten members of the General Council, or a Zionist Territorial Organization, or a Zionist Inter-Territorial Association, who had submitted the request, may appeal to the Congress in writing against the Executive's decision. The appeal shall reach the Executive prior to the second meeting of the Congress and be dealt with in the second meeting. The Congress shall decide, after hearing one representative of the appellants and one of the Executive for no more than 5 minutes each. The decision of the Congress shall be final.

- (d) At a proposal of the Presidium, submitted in consultation with the Executive, or at the request of 30 delegates, the Congress may, after its opening, decide by a two thirds' majority of the Congress delegates that a new item should be included in the agenda. The duration of the debate on all proposals of this kind shall not exceed 30 minutes; in this debate, a representative of the proponents and a representative of the Executive may speak for no more than 5 minutes on each item.

### C. PRESIDUM OF THE CONGRESS

(a) Not later than at its second meeting the Congress shall elect, according to the proposal of the General Council, the President of the Congress and its Presidium consisting of the President and of a number of members which is not smaller than 15 and does not exceed the number of the members of the Presidium of the Zionist General Council.<sup>2</sup>

(b) The Presidium of the General Council shall convene the Council for a session at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the Congress, in order to prepare the proposal on the composition of the Presidium.

(c) The President shall conduct the meeting of the Congress. He shall be entrusted with the external representation of the Congress and shall take care of the observance of the Standing

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<sup>2</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

Orders. Any members of the Presidium, while discharging the functions of the President, shall have all the powers and responsibilities of the President.

(d) Prior to the election of the Presidium, the Chairman of the Executive shall direct the proceedings of the Congress.

#### D. SECRETARIES

- (a) The Presidium shall appoint one Secretary or several Secretaries of the Congress from among the delegates of the Congress or the officials of the Executive. Regulation 4
- (b) The Secretaries shall take minutes containing the subjects of the deliberations, the proposals submitted, the names of the proponents, the results of the vote and the text of the resolutions.
- (c) The Secretaries shall also draw up a list of the speakers according to the order in which they were granted the floor, read out before the Congress the announcements of the Presidium and documents pertaining to the Congress, count the votes, unless otherwise arranged in this matter, and assist the Presidium in discharging its

#### E. CONGRESS OFFICE

- (a) The Executive shall set up a Congress Office, at an appropriate time prior to the opening of the Congress, appoint its Director and place at his disposal the requisite workers. Regulation 5
- (b) The Congress Office shall make the technical preparations for the Congress and be in charge of all technical arrangements for the duration of the Congress.
- (c) The Congress Office is subject to the direction of the Executive (Organization Department) prior to the opening of the Congress and to that of the Presidium for the duration of the Congress.<sup>3</sup>

#### F. DEPUTY CELEGATES

- (a) A deputy-delegate shall assume the function of a delegate if the delegate does not attend the Congress at all or, after attending part of the Congress, ceases to participate; in the latter case the deputy-

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<sup>3</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General council in September 1981.

delegate assumes his function from the moment at which the delegate ceased to take part.

- (b) A notification to the effect that a delegate will not take part in the Congress shall be given, prior to the opening of the Congress to the Executive and after the opening to the Presidium, by the delegate himself and bear his signature. If no such notification was received from the delegate, it shall be given by the representative of the respective list in which the name of the delegate appears (Regulation 7 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization).

#### G. CONGRESS GROUPINGS

- (a) At least 12 delegates present at the Congress may form a Congress Grouping.
- (b) No delegate may join more than one Grouping.
- (c) A delegate who has joined a certain Grouping may withdraw from it during the Congress and join another Grouping. Notice in writing of the withdrawal and joining shall be given by the delegate to the Presidium and the Executive.
- (d) The Groupings shall inform the Presidium and the Executive in writing of their formation not later than at the beginning of the second session. A list of the names of the members of the Grouping shall be enclosed with the notification.

#### G1. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONGRESS

Regulation 7A

Subject to Article 26 of the Constitution there shall be invited to Congress personalities and representatives of bodies, whose presence at Congress, in the view of the Executive or the Presidium, is necessary or desirable. Those invited will be permitted to address Congress, in accordance with the decision of the Congress Presidium.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation 7A inserted according to Resolution 18 of the 26<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress.

## H. DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONGRESS

*Stages of Deliberations*

Regulation 8

- (a) The deliberations of the Congress shall be divided into the following 5 stages.
  - (aa) First stage – the opening of the Congress, the opening speech of the President of the World Zionist Organization, the address of the Chairman of the Executive, additional address that have been put on the agenda, the election of the Presidium of the Congress, the report of the Chairman of the Congress Tribunal on the election results, reports of members of the Executive supplementing the printed report, general debate, election of the Congress Committees;
  - (bb) Second stage – election of the new Executive, according to the proposal of the Standing Committee (Regulation 25);
  - (cc) Third stage – meetings of the Committees;
  - (dd) Fourth stage – reports of the Committees and vote on the proposals submitted by them, report of the Standing Committee and vote on the proposals regarding the election of the President of the World Zionist Organization, the members of the Zionist General Council, the Comptroller (Deputy Comptroller) and legal officers;
  - (ee) Fifth stage – concluding addresses.
- (b) Owing to important and unforeseen circumstances, the Presidium may change the chronological order of the above stages.
- (c) Insofar as the agenda shall not have laid down the 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 session shall vote on the proposals, the consideration of which shall not have been completed by the Committee by the deadline, after hearing one member of the Committee for and another against the proposal, each for no more than 5 minutes.

Resolution 9

## Public Nature of the Meetings

The plenary meetings of the Congress shall be open to the public. The Congress may decide, at a joint request of the Presidium and the Executive, to deal with certain subjects in a closed meeting. In the debate on such a proposal 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.

Regulation 10

*Report on the Election Results*

The President of the Zionist Supreme Court shall deliver the report on the election results not later than at the second meeting of the Congress. If, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Zionist Supreme Court is unable to terminate its proceedings in time, the President of the Supreme Court may supplement his report at one of the following meetings. No debate shall take place and no resolutions shall be adopted in connection with the report on the results of the elections.

Regulation 11

*Order of Deliberations*

The Presidium shall determine the time allotted for the deliberations on all subjects on the agenda together or on each subject separately, as well as the division of time between addresses and debate and the allocation of time to Groupings, members of the Executive and other participants in the Congress. The time available should be divided in such a manner that no more than one hour shall be allocated to the address of the speaker introducing the subject and to his reply; of the remainder of the of the time allotted, at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  shall be accorded to the Groupings according to their strength and at most  $\frac{1}{4}$  to all those attending the Congress in an advisory capacity.

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

Regulation 12

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, having regard to the urgency of the matter, shall give the floor to the proponents of the

motion for 2 minutes beyond the fixed agenda, at the time when the matter to which the motion refers is being dealt with and, if necessary, immediately after the speaker who had the floor shall have finished speaking.

*Motion of Amendment*

Regulation 13

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 amendment being carried, the main motion shall be put to the vote in the amended form.

*Committee Stage Obligatory*

Regulation 14

Subject to the provisions of the Regulation 8 (c), main motions shall not be put to the vote at the plenary meeting unless they have been previously dealt with by the competent Committee of the Congress.

*Powers of the Chairman*

Regulation 15

- (a) The speakers shall limit themselves to the subjects on the agenda of the Congress, and, in the case of separate deliberations on various subjects, to the specific subject dealt with at the stage of the proceedings concerned.
- (b) In the event of an infringement of these rules, the Chairman shall admonish the speaker to keep to the point. If this admonishment remains unheeded, the Chairman shall warn the speaker that he may be ordered to withdraw from the floor, if he should continue to be out of order. If the speaker does not heed this warning, the Chairman may interrupt the speaker and order him to withdraw from the floor.
- (c) Those attending the Congress 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 Congress and to safeguard its dignity. Grave cases shall be decided by the Presidium.



The Congress may resolve:

- (a) to remove the motion from the agenda;
- (b) to reject the motion;
- (c) to postpone the voting on the motion to another day;
- (d) to refer the motion to the Executive or the General Council for deliberation;<sup>5</sup>
- (e) to adopt the motion in its entirety or partially.

- (a) Voting may take place only in meetings designed 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 of the voting not later than at the previous meeting. In urgent cases, the Presidium may make such announcement at the beginning of the meeting in which the vote shall be taken.
- (b) In meetings, in 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) The order of the voting shall be determined by the Chairman. At the request of the proponent the vote shall be taken separately on each part of the motion or on several parts together and then the motion as a whole shall be put to the vote.
- (e) Voting shall be by show of hands; by order of the Chairman or at the request of a delegate of the Congress, delegate cards shall be shown.
- (f) Voting shall be by roll call, or by secret written ballot, if so requested by 60 delegates or by the Presidium or by the Executive.
- (g) If in the opinion of the Chairman a motion put to the vote has been adopted or rejected by a majority of votes, the votes shall not be counted, except upon demand of a delegate.
- (h) If in the opinion of the Chairman there are doubts as to the result of voting, he may appoint tellers from among the members of the

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<sup>5</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

Congress or officials of the Executive and determine anew the result of the vote on the basis of the figure reported by the tellers. At the request of the proponents of the motion, a second vote shall be taken.

#### *Elections*

Regulation 18

In the election of the Presidium, of the governing bodies of the World Zionist Organization and of the Congress Committees, a vote shall be taken only on the total list of the candidates.

#### *Interpellations*

Regulation 19

- (a) Each delegate may submit an interpellation to the President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman of the Executive, a member of the Executive or the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors of the National Funds, 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 Congress (Reg. 8, para. (a) (aa)) 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 Congress.
- (b) The interpellation shall be couched in an appropriate language.
- (c) The reply to the interpellation shall be given by the person being interpellated orally at a plenary meeting of the Congress fixed by the Presidium.
- (d) 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 refusal through the Presidium and indicate the reason for it.
- (e) No debate shall be held on the reply, unless the Executive or the Presidium demand it, or the Congress so decides, after hearing one speaker in support and one in opposition for no more than 3 minutes. The Presidium shall fix the meeting at which the debate shall take place.

Regulation 20

*Language at the Congress*

- (a) The official language of the Congress is Hebrew.
- (b) The Presidium may permit the use of other languages.

Regulation 21

*Minutes*

- (a) Stenographic minutes shall be taken of the deliberations of the Congress. The Minutes shall be printed and published.
- (b) No report shall be published on closed meetings of the Congress, except by decision of the Executive.

## I. COMMITTEES

Regulation 22

*Setting-up and Work of the Congress Committees*

- (a) The Congress shall, in accordance with the proposals of the Presidium, elect Committees from among the delegates and members of the General Council, having regard to the subjects on the agenda. Subject to Regulation 25, para. (c), the Committees shall be elected not later than at the meeting preceding the conclusion of the first stage of the Congress (Regulation 8, para (a) (aa)).
- (b) Each Committee shall elect at its first meeting a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman or several Deputy Chairmen, whatever necessary.
- (c) The meetings of the Committees shall not be open to the public. The President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman and the members of the Executive, the President of the Congress, the Chairman of the General Council and the members of the Presidium of the General Council, shall be entitled to participate in the meetings of the Committees in an advisory capacity.
- (d) Delegates of the Congress and members of the General Council who, without being members of a Committee, shall have submitted to it proposals within the sphere of its competence, and representatives of Zionist Territorial Organizations and Inter-Territorial Zionist Associations, whose proposals shall have been included in the agenda of the Congress, shall be invited by the Chairman of the Committee to participate in the meeting at which their proposals shall be dealt with.,
- (e) The Executive shall submit its proposals 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.

- (f) The Chairman shall reject proposals which do not concern subjects on the agenda of the Congress or do not come within the terms of reference of the Committee or have not been submitted in time.<sup>6</sup> The proponents whose proposals 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.

Proposals for resolution may be submitted only in writing, properly drafted and explained. Proposals of members of the Zionist General Council and of Zionist Federations shall be submitted to the Presidium of the General Council not later than 60 days prior to the opening of the Congress. If the Presidium confirmed the urgency of the proposal, it may also be submitted after the time limit mentioned above. A group of 50 Congress delegates, the Executive or the Presidium of the Congress may submit a proposal at any time until the end of the deliberations in the Committee concerned.<sup>7</sup> The Presidium of the General Council or a subcommittee set up by it for this purpose shall classify and examine the proposals submitted in order to avoid duplication and shall eliminate or limit proposals of a purely declaratory character.

- (g) The speaking time of the member of a Committee shall not exceed 10 minutes. In special cases the Chairman may extend it by additional 5 minutes.
- (h) Members of a committee whose proposals were rejected by the committee are entitled to submit a minority proposal. The member shall announce his intention of submitting such proposal immediately after the vote concerned and submit the proposal of his which had not been adopted as a minority proposal, in writing and properly drafted in reasonable time afterwards to the Chairman of the Committee or to its secretary.<sup>8</sup>
- (i) The Chairman of a Committee shall submit to the plenary meeting the proposals adopted by his Committee. The

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<sup>6</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

<sup>7</sup> Inserted according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

<sup>8</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.

Committee may elect a reporter who shall cooperate with the Chairman in submitting its proposals to the plenary meeting.

- (j) If a minority proposal shall have been registered, its proponent shall be given the floor in support thereof at the plenary meeting of the Congress 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 for no more than 10 minutes to each minority proposal. No further discussion shall take place on the subject of the minority proposal.
- (k) The President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman and members of the Executive shall be given the floor for the purpose of defining their position for no more than 5 minutes.
- (l) In the absence of special provisions in this Regulation, the Standing Order governing the procedure and voting in the plenary meetings of the Congress shall apply to the procedure in the Committees, *mutatis mutandis*.

#### *Report of the Comptroller*

Regulation 23

The report of the Comptroller shall be brought before the Congress in a manner to be determined by the Presidium.

#### *Committee on Resolutions*

Regulation 24

At the time fixed in Regulation 22, the Presidium shall elect a Resolutions Committee consisting of 3 to 5 members, from among its midst and/or from among other participants of the Congress. The Resolutions Committee shall examine the proposals in respect of their wording and style. The Resolutions Committee shall also examine the proposals with a view to avoid duplication.

The Committee is entitled to eliminate or to limit proposals or purely declaratory character as far as they concern the activities of the WZO, its branches and institutions.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Preparatory Committee and Standing Committee*

Regulation 25

- (a) Immediately after the results of the Congress elections have been brought to the knowledge of the Executive or, if necessary, before this date, the Presidium of the General Council shall set

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<sup>9</sup> The last sentence inserted according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in 1981.

up a Committee for preparing the work of the Standing Committee (hereinafter Preparatory Committee). In fixing the composition of the Preparatory Committee the Presidium shall take into account the prospective results of the Congress elections. In addition to the members of the Preparatory Committee an equal number of deputy-members shall be appointed; the deputy-members shall act in case the members of the Committee, for any reason whatsoever, do not discharge their functions.

- (b) The Presidium shall convene the Preparatory Committee to its first meeting at the venue of the Congress a fortnight before its opening. At this meeting the Presidium of the General Council shall inform the Preparatory Committee of the prospective results of the Congress elections. The Preparatory Committee shall elect a Chairman and conduct the activities necessary for making sure that the Standing Committee to be elected should conclude its work in time. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee shall report on the results of its activities to the Standing Committee, immediately after the Standing Committee shall have been set up.
- (c) In according with the proposal of the Presidium of the Congress, the Congress shall elect a Standing Committee not later than at the third meeting of the Congress. The Standing Committee shall be responsible for preparing proposals for the election of the President of the World Zionist Organization, the Chairman and the members of the Executive, the members of the General Council, the Comptroller – and, if necessary, the Deputy Comptroller -, the Attorney of the World Zionist Organization and his deputies, and, subject to the provisions of Article 54 of the Constitution, the proposals for the election of the President of the Zionist Supreme Court, his deputies and the other members of the Court.
- (d)
  - (1) The Standing Committee shall be composed according to the strength of the Congress Groupings;
  - (2) If after the division according to the strength of the Congress Groupings some seats on the Committee have remained unallocated, they shall be distributed in accordance with the system of the largest remainders of the delegates of the Congress Groupings which, in the first division, had received at least one representative;

(3) Congress Groupings which did not receive a delegate by the division in accordance with para. 1 or 2 but have got at least 51% of the number of delegates entitling to one representative, shall receive a representative on the Standing Committee, provided that the total number of its members shall not exceed 35.

#### J. AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDER OF THE CONGRESS

##### *Requirements of the Validity of the Resolution*

Regulation 26

No resolution regarding an amendment of the Standing Orders shall be valid, unless the text of the proposed amendment had been included in the agenda of the Congress or of the General Council which was brought to the knowledge of those concerned according to Regulation 2 (a) or to Section 9 (1) of the Standing Orders of the Zionist General Council, as the case may be.<sup>10</sup>

#### K. FINAL PROVISIONS

##### *Repeal of the Standing Orders of the Congress of 1922*

Regulation 27

With the adoption of these Standing Orders, the Standing Orders of the Congress, as adopted by the Carlsbad Annual Conference of September 1922, shall cease to have validity.

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<sup>10</sup> Amended according to Resolution 21 of the General Council in September 1981.