

**DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSALS
TO THE ZIONIST CONGRESS XXXVII**

**COMMITTEE #5:
THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
IN THE MIRROR OF TIME – A**



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2 **INSTITUTIONS IN THE MIRROR OF TIME - A**
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5.1. Structural Changes

Submitted by Eliezer Shefer, Chairman, World Organization of Orthodox Communities and Synagogues in Israel and the Diaspora

Whereas significant spiritual, cultural and ideological changes are taking place within the Jewish people and Israeli society; and

Whereas the present old and outdated structure of the National Institutions no longer reflects the aforementioned changes,

The World Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

To effect significant changes in the structure of the institutions in general and of the World Zionist Organization in particular;

To renew the covenant of partnership with the Jewish Agency and with the Government of Israel;

To significantly reduce the number of elected bodies and their size;

To create a fundamental transformation of goals and objectives, as necessitated in response to changes and processes occurring within the Jewish people and Israeli society.

On the basis of this resolution, a proposal will be submitted for significant amendments to the existing Constitution and Regulations.

5.2. Dor Hemshech (Generation Next) Participation

Submitted by Amiad Taub, World Organization of Orthodox Communities and Synagogues in Israel and the Diaspora

Whereas members of the young generation are interested in taking part in leading processes in the framework of the Congress; and

Whereas the present old and outmoded structure of the National Institutions does not reflect the generation next, viz. ages 35-45, and their numbers among the delegates are minimal,

The World Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

To effect significant changes in the structure of the institutions in general, and the World Zionist Organization in particular;

To create a category of "Dor Hemshech members" aged 35-45 and to allocate them 3% of the delegates in every organization and Union.

On the basis of this resolution, a proposal will be submitted for significant changes to the existing Constitution and Regulations.

5.3. The National Institutions in the Mirror of Time

Submitted by Ms. Chaya Cohen; Ets World Labor Zionist Union

Whereas criticism has been leveled in recent years at the relevance of the National Institutions; and

Whereas the structure of the Institutions has changed, creating gaps between the will to take action and the capacity and remit de facto; and

Whereas comprehensive action is required in relation to Diaspora Jewry over a range of issues, including:

The promotion of Aliyah to Israel; Jewish-Zionist education; Hebrew language study; the expansion of the Magshimim youth movement and student activity; bolstering the unity of the Jewish people across its religious and spiritual streams; the prevention of assimilation; comprehensive action against the mechanisms behind the delegitimization of the Jewish people and the very existence of the State of Israel,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. To charge the new Zionist Executive to re-examine the structure of the National Institutions at this time and the structure of the World Zionist Organization and its direct spheres of activity.
2. To reinforce cooperation with the Israel Government and Diaspora Jewish communities and recruit them for contemporary Zionist tasks under WZO leadership.
3. To re-examine the World Zionist Organization's modus operandi within the State of Israel in: the education system, immigrant absorption, the enhancement of Jewish-Zionist education and the preservation of Israel's unity as a society, through the induction of values from the vision of Israel's prophets and the Zionist movement down the generations.

5.4. Enhancing the Efficacy of Shlichut in Meeting Genuine Needs

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas, the interaction between *shlichim* coming from Israel to communities outside of Israel with youth, young adults, and organizations, is one of the most effective ways to impart Zionist education and increase Zionist awareness in these communities; and

Whereas, successful *shlichut* takes various forms, with differing organizational focus, a range of time periods and different profiles of *shlichim* and requires sound planning and implementation by all involved in the activity, and

Whereas, it is the beneficiaries of the *shlichim* that are most cognizant of the real needs and challenges that need to be met,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby instructs the Zionist Executive:

To initiate the establishment of a joint coordinating committee no later than December 31, 2015, to be comprised of representatives of the National Institutions and an equal number of Diaspora leaders representing the Zionist Federations, JFNA, KH and JNF in order to secure input from and assess the needs of all communities outside of Israel and prepare (and thereafter regularly review) the nature, scope, placement and funding of *shlichut* activity and the way in which *shlichut* can be increased and enhanced in order to meet the needs of communities and further the fulfillment of The Jerusalem Program.

Be it further resolved, that in the absence of timely cooperation from the other bodies noted above, the WZO shall establish its own committee for the above-stated purpose, to be comprised of an equal number of representatives from Israel and the Diaspora.

The WZO representatives to any committee established in keeping with this resolution shall be approved by the Zionist Executive and shall reflect the full range of the World Unions and Organizations represented in the Zionist Congress.

5.5. Review of the Structure and Functioning of the WZO

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas the structure and operating principles of the World Zionist Organization need to be re-examined in a serious and rigorous fashion to insure that they are appropriate to the realization of The Jerusalem Program in the 21st Century; and

Whereas a resolution which would have initiated efforts to that end was adopted at the session of the Zionist General Council (36/4) in February 2015 but has not been implemented,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

1. That a Special Commission (with sub-groups), representing all factions and interests in the Zionist General Council with full and effective representation of members living outside

of Israel, be established to begin a detailed discussion of the structure and operating principles of the World Zionist Organization.

2. That input as to the issues and topics to be addressed be solicited from all groupings within the World Zionist Organization, to be submitted no later than December 14, 2015, and that, no later than February, 2016, the Outer Executive approve an initial outline of tasks and working groups, as well as a timetable for meetings, securing input from all constituencies, and reporting to the Zionist General Council.
3. That among the sub-groups of the Commission, one be established with the specific mandate of reviewing the WZO Constitution and proposing comprehensive changes to it in keeping with the recommendations of the Commission.
4. That an initial status report be provided to the Zionist General Council at its session in 2016 and that, thereafter, regular reports be furnished to the Zionist General Council and to all constituent members and groups, with the goal of completing the process and putting final recommendations forward at the Zionist General Council session in 2017.
5. That the foregoing process is to be treated as a matter of highest priority by the officers of the World Zionist Organization, its department heads, members of the Zionist Executive and members of the Outer Executive.
6. That the Zionist General Council be empowered to amend the Constitution in order to actualize the recommendations of the Commission.

5.6. Review of the WZO Constitution

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas the WZO Constitution has been amended numerous times since its original adoption, resulting in a number of inconsistencies and lack of clarity, and

Whereas there are numerous clauses in the Constitution that have been consistently ignored or abrogated for more than a decade, and

Whereas the realities of the Jewish world, the mission of the World Zionist Organization, and the relationship of the WZO to the other National Institutions have changed considerably since the Constitution was first adopted,

Be it hereby resolved:

That the Executive establish a Special Commission no later than December 31, 2015 for the purpose of reviewing the Constitution in its entirety and proposing either a comprehensive set of amendments or a complete re-write to be acted upon by the ZGC at its session in 2017.

Be it further resolved that the Commission be staffed by a professional and that it include independent legal experts as well as individuals representing the Congress Factions and International Organizations represented at the Congress.

5.7. Effective Communication for Conveying the Zionist Idea

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas many individuals who are involved as delegates or alternates to the Zionist Congress, or as members of the Zionist General Council, or who are active in Zionist Federations and its constituent members, have little understanding of the work undertaken by the World Zionist Organization between each Congress, and the importance of such efforts, and are unable to explain the role of the World Zionist Organization in Zionist education and awareness,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

1. The World Zionist Organization shall develop and implement an ongoing effective program of written communication to all members of the Zionist Executive, the Outer Executive, the Zionist General Council and heads of Zionist Federations, as well as website and other media, so that Zionist activists are fully and regularly apprised of the work of the World Zionist Organization and initiatives being undertaken.
2. Such communications shall follow the principle that maximum transparency and communication are essential to strengthen the connection between the World Zionist Organization and individuals around the world who are not involved in the work of the World Zionist Organization on a daily or monthly basis.
3. Such communications shall be at least once in each calendar quarter, and shall be provided directly to the referenced individuals, and to Zionist Federations in a manner that enables the Federation and its constituent organizations to expand the scope of the communication to all members if constituent organizations.

5.8. Governance and Federations (3)

Submitted by the AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT

Whereas many individuals who are involved as delegates or alternates to the Zionist Congress, or as members of the Zionist General Council, or who are active in Zionist Federations and its constituent members, have little understanding of the work undertaken by the World Zionist Organization between each Congress, and the importance of such efforts, and are unable to explain the role of the World Zionist Organization in Zionist education and awareness,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

1. The World Zionist Organization shall develop and implement an ongoing effective program of written communication to all members of the Zionist Executive, the Outer Executive, the Zionist General Council and heads of Zionist Federations, as well as website and other media, so that Zionist activists are fully and regularly apprised of the work of the World Zionist Organization and initiatives being undertaken in all aspects of that work, including budgetary issues and budget status.
2. Such communications shall follow the principle that maximum transparency and communication is essential to strengthen the connection between the World Zionist Organization and individuals around the world who are not involved in the work of the World Zionist Organization on a daily or monthly basis.
3. Such communications shall be at least quarterly, and shall be provided directly to the referenced individuals, and to Zionist Federations in a manner that enables the Federation and its constituent organizations to expand the scope of the communication of all members if constituent organizations.

5.9. The Establishment of a Zionist Appeal Fund for WZO Activities

Submitted by World Likud

The Zionist Congress XXXVII calls for:

The establishment forthwith of a Zionist Appeal Fund to raise monies, in order to allow the WZO to enhance and leverage its Zionist activities, for the benefit of the Jewish people in its own land and in the Diaspora.

5.10. Facilitating the Funding and Functioning of the WZO

Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami and

The World Confederation of United Zionists

Whereas, the National Institutions -- World Zionist Organization, The Jewish Agency for Israel, *Karen Kayemet L'Yisrael*, and *Keren Hayesod* -- have been and are essential building blocks for implementing the principles and goals of Zionism both within the State of Israel and around the world, and

Whereas, the work of the National Institutions requires maximum flexibility in working together in activities and financial issues,

The 37th Zionist Congress:

Calls upon the Government of Israel to take immediate and effective steps to enable the National Institutions to function in a cooperative and coordinated manner, with appropriate flexibility, including but not limited to the ability to make financial arrangements and provide financial support within the operations of the National Institutions, in order to achieve their shared objectives, making such activities subject to public oversight in a manner that reflects the unique and significant position of the National Institutions in the life of the State and the future of *Am Yisrael*.

5.11. Abrogation of the Existing Constitution of the World Zionist Organization

*Submitted by Eliezer Shefer, World Organization of Orthodox Communities
and Synagogues in Israel and the Diaspora*

Whereas cultural, sociological and demographic changes have been and continue to take place within the Jewish people, in Diaspora Jewish communities and in Israeli society; and

Whereas the existing Constitution of March 2015 is built layer upon layer, is not in sequence, is irrelevant and does not meet the needs of the era, or necessary changes and innovations;

The World Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

- a. To abrogate the existing Constitution in stages;
- b. To present a proposal for a new and updated Constitution to the Zionist General Council within one year.

5.12. Proposal for an Additional Article to the WZO Constitution

*Submitted by Eliezer Shefer, World Organization of Orthodox Communities
and Synagogues in Israel and the Diaspora*

Whereas the productive, important and active partnership between the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel in the election of a single Chairperson to both organizations was impaired and weakened by the separation of the above responsibilities into two positions of Chair; and

Whereas there is a growing acknowledgement and understanding of the importance of a return to partnership between the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency, for the benefit of the Jewish people and Israeli society;

The World Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

To renew the agreement with the Jewish Agency in the matter of electing a single joint Chairperson for the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization.

5.13. Implementation of Congress Resolutions

Submitted by Meretz World Union

Whereas the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization determines in Article 40, Section 1 that:

“The Executive shall be the executive organ of the World Zionist Organization, charged with the implementation of the decisions of Congress and Council, and shall be responsible to those bodies. It

1 shall have the power to acquire rights and undertake obligations on behalf of the World Zionist
2 Organization, and to represent it externally”,

3 **The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:**

4 That a committee of the Executive shall set down a regulation for response to queries, the
5 response time for urgent queries, a regulation on the transmission of the regulation on
6 progress reports about the implementation of the decisions of the Zionist Congress or Zionist
7 General Council; and that should the relevant official not comply with the regulations, the
8 issue shall be transferred for the attention of the Chairman of the Zionist Executive, or a
9 person on his behalf. If the Chairman of the WZO does not fulfill these directives, the matter
10 will be referred to the WZO Comptroller, while also informing the WZO Attorney thereof.

11

12 **5.14. Article 2, Section 2**

13 *Submitted by Asher Ben Shlomo, Member of the Zionist General Council*

14 **Whereas**, in accordance with the Zionist Program – Jerusalem Program, as stated in Article 2,
15 Section 1 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, the Zionist Program was
16 defined by the first Zionist Congress in Basle as follows:

17 "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in Eretz Israel secured by public law";
18 and

19 **Whereas**, in accordance with Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution of the World Zionist
20 Organization, the Jerusalem Program of 2004, as defined by the Zionist General Council
21 XXXIV/3 is as follows:

22 "Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, brought about the establishment of
23 the State of Israel, and views a Jewish, Zionist, democratic and secure State of Israel to be the
24 expression of the common responsibility of the Jewish people for its continuity and future;"

25 and

26 **Whereas** the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization is not a source of political or legal
27 authority in the State of Israel;

28 and

29 **Whereas** the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization does not determine social norms,
30 because it is unsupported by a regular or Basic law of the State of Israel, and because its
31 provisions do not compel the State of Israel's policy; and

32 **Whereas** the Basic Law on a Referendum approved by the Israel Knesset in 2014 does not
33 relate to the Jewish people but to the Israeli people, by reason of being a Basic Law founded
34 on the interpretation of the term "people" as "the group of citizens of a state", and in the
35 specific case of the above law, to "the group of Israeli citizens residing in the State of Israel";
36 and

37 **Whereas** the legislated recognition of the existence of the Israeli people leads to denial of the
38 definition of the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people, by reason of the Jewish
39 people not being the group of the Jewish state's citizens, a fact which testifies to the
40 irrelevance of the concept of "the Jewish people" in a reality where assimilation occurs within
41 Israeli society, originating with the integration of all its citizens that have no declared religion
42 or belong to different religions that are not recognized as Jewish by the State of Israel; and

43 **Whereas** Jewish identity in the State of Israel is defined by religious considerations alone,
44 without consideration of citizenship as a basis for the legal definition of the people which it
45 represents at international level, by reason of the State of Israel's definition of the Israeli
46 people in the Basic Law on Referendum in accordance with its inhabitants' Israeli citizenship,
47 which contradicts the above-designated aspiration of the Zionist movement and acts as an
48 impediment to the fulfillment of the World Zionist Organization's goals, under Article 2,
49 Section 2 of the Constitution,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

That the World Zionist Organization shall promote public discussion on the importance of changing the name of the Jewish state: from "Israel" to "Judeaea", in order to prevent the national formation of an Israeli people, and in order to renew the Jewish people as a political reality, in keeping with historic precedents that existed in the days of the Kingdom of Judeaea, where the Jewish people represented the group of citizens of the Jewish (Judean) state.

**5.15. Effecting Transparency and Regulations for Freedom of Information
in the National Institutions**

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

Whereas "Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, brought about the establishment of the State of Israel, and views a Jewish, Zionist, democratic and secure State of Israel to be the expression of the common responsibility of the Jewish people for its continuity and future" (from the introduction to the "Jerusalem Program"); and

Whereas the Zionist movement was established as a democratic movement in its essence and its conduct, and as such became the Jewish people's first democratic mass movement after 2000 years of exile; and

Whereas the State of Israel was the first historic state to be established from its day of inception as a Jewish and democratic state; and

Whereas under the rules of due justice in a democratic state and the 'Freedom of Information Act 1981 (5758)', all citizens of Israel or residents have the right to receive information from a public authority,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. On complete transparency for all the National Institutions in accordance with the provisions in the 'Freedom of Information Act 1981 (5758)'. The Congress directs the Comptroller of the Institutions and the Legal Advisor to induct this resolution in all departments and at all levels of management in all the National Institutions.
2. The WZO Executive shall report to the Outer Executive following the Congress on progress in the process for the induction of this principle.

5.16. Financial Transparency in the National Institutions

Submitted by Ameinu Delegates, USA – Etz, World Labor Zionist Union

Whereas the World Zionist Organization is the legitimate, internationally recognized representative body of the Jewish people; and

Whereas the World Zionist Organization wields significant control over the three National Institutions all of which have significant assets at their disposal: Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the World Zionist Organization itself -- which in turn manage a critical mass of the international Jewish community's resources, particularly as they relate to activity in Israel; and

Whereas the International Jewish community has an important stake in how its resources in Israel are spent, but little way to exercise that oversight given that the Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the World Zionist Organization current policies provide limited transparency; and

Whereas transparency is a core tenant of the democratic society that the Zionist movement works to actualize in the Jewish homeland,

Be it resolved that:

All bodies in which the World Zionist Organization participates in a governance role, including Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the World Zionist Organization itself, must operate under generally accepted rules of transparency, and that the World Zionist Organization and the communities it represents are provided with comprehensive and accurate information on their budget, finance, and activities.

5.17. Salary Cuts for Senior Officials in the National Institutions

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

Whereas, the gap between salary levels in Israel is increasing relentlessly, to the point where the State of Israel features among the list of countries in the world with the highest salary gaps; and

Whereas the State of Israel was established by the Zionist movement in accordance with the vision of Herzl – the father of the Zionist movement – as an just, egalitarian and exemplary society; and

Whereas it is incumbent on the Zionist movement to set a shining example of this vision, both in theory and practice,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. That, beginning January 1 2016, there will be a 10% cut in the salaries of senior officials in the WZO.
2. The WZO shall exert its influence and ability of decision (shared ownership, influence on subordinates) upon the other National Institutions to take similar steps.

5.18. The Employment of Contract Agency Workers in the National Institutions

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

Whereas, in recent years, the custom of employing contract agency workers deprived of their rights and security of employ has permeated the Israeli economy; and

Whereas the proportion of contract agency employees in the Israeli economy is one of the highest in the western world, and this form of employment is detrimental primarily to the weaker groups on the labor market – women, new immigrants, the social and geographical periphery; and

Whereas, also within the Israeli educational system which trains the future generation, teachers are being employed under agency conditions, being dismissed at the end of the emic year and thus not enjoying the recognition and rewards befitting their status and skills; and

Whereas the State of Israel was established by the Zionist movement in accordance with the vision of Herzl – the father of the Zionist movement – as an just, egalitarian and exemplary society; and

Whereas it is incumbent on the Zionist movement to set a shining example of this vision, both in theory and practice,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. That the employment of contract agency workers is inconsistent with the values of the Zionist movement.
2. The employment of contract agency workers in all WZO institutions, including the Zionist Council in Israel, will cease and the employees will be transferred to direct employment.
3. The transfer process for employees to direct employment shall take no longer than one year following the Zionist Congress XXXVII.
4. A progress report on the process will be submitted to the Outer Executive and the Zionist General Council.

- 1 5. The WZO will exert its influence and ability of decision (shared ownership, influence on
- 2 subordinates) upon the other National Institutions so that they should not employ agency
- 3 workers.