

## STATUTES IOBC/ATRS

### *ENGLISH VERSION*

#### **ART. I: Name and Seat**

1. The Afrotropical Regional Section (ATRS), hereafter referred to as "the Section", is a scientific association connected with the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC). Its activities cover all African countries except the countries of North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt) which already belong to the West Palearctic Regional Section.
2. The seat of the Section shall be in Makhanda, South Africa, at the Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University. Its Secretariat may be in the country where the Secretary General is resident.
3. The Section is registered as a company with the Companies & Intellectual Property Commission of South Africa, with the name IOBC-Afrotropical Regional Section (Pty) Ltd (2016/030451/07). It runs as a Non Profit Association and the legal principles governing its functioning are those of Global IOBC.

#### **ART. II: Definition, Tasks and Objectives**

1. The Section shall:
  - (a) promote the development of biological control of pests and diseases and in a more general way, integrated protection in the context of integrated crop production; also to promote international cooperation to these ends,
  - (b) collect, evaluate and disseminate information on biological and integrated controls,
  - (c) promote national and international research, training, coordination of large scale application and maintain public awareness of the economic, ecological and social importance of new development in plant protection,
  - (d) arrange conferences, meetings and symposia, and take any other action to implement the general objectives of the Organization.
2. The Section may consult or collaborate with international or national, governmental or nongovernmental organisations.

#### **ART. III: Membership**

1. Membership of the Section shall be open to all individuals and all organisations, public or private, that desire to promote the objectives as defined in Art. II.
2. There are four categories of membership.
  - (a) Individual membership is open to all who are interested in biological and integrated control.
  - (b) Institutional membership is open to any institution and includes official organisations, academies, universities and learned societies, etc.
  - (c) Supporting membership is open to any person or institution interested in promoting the objectives defined in Art. II.
  - (d) Honorary membership may be conferred by Council on anyone who has made outstanding contributions in the fields of biological and integrated control.

**ART. IV: Application for Membership**

1. Application for membership shall be addressed to the President of the Section. The Council decides on the propriety of admission of institutional members, the Executive Committee on the propriety of admission of the supporting and individual members.
2. In becoming a member of the Section, a new member at the same time becomes a member of the global IOBC with its associated benefits.

**ART. V: Withdrawal of Membership**

1. Members may resign from the Section by a written notice sent to the Secretary General or any member of the Executive Committee.
2. The Section may deprive of benefits any Member whose contribution is one year in arrears, and may expel any Member whose contribution is two years or more in arrears.

**ART. VI: Resources and Financing**

1. The revenue of the Section shall consist of:
  - (a) annual membership contributions
  - (b) special funds
  - (c) gifts and contributions of any nature.
2. The annual membership contribution shall be paid by each member according to the conditions described in the by-laws. Any change in this amount must be accepted by the General Assembly for the duration of the session following proposals made to the Council at least one year beforehand. The Executive Committee shall determine the conditions of remittance of the contributions.
3. The contributions remitted to the Section constitute its normal revenue. They are intended to ensure its functioning and also to provide regular contributions to the Global Organisation.
4. In addition to the above resources, the Section may receive special funds or competitive funds. These are intended to finance studies or specific research topics. The Executive Committee will decide about the acceptability of such funds according to the spirit of the statutes.
5. Only the assets of the Section may be used to cover its obligations. Personal liability of members is excluded.

**ART. VII: Administrative Structure**

1. The Section comprises:
  - (a) a General Assembly,
  - (b) a Council,
  - (c) an Executive Committee, if necessary, assisted by a Sub-Committee for Programmes,
  - (d) an Auditing Committee,
  - (e) bodies given scientific and technical responsibilities according to the by-laws.

**ART. VIII: General Assembly**

1. Participants to the General Assembly include:
  - (a) the representatives of the Institutional Members
  - (b) the members of Council and the Auditing Committee
  - (c) the convenors of Groups and Commissions and specialists invited because of their personal competence.
  - (d) the individual members and the supporting members.

**ART. IX: Meetings of the General Assembly**

1. An ordinary session is held every four years.
2. The General Assembly may meet in a special session if requested through the President, by at least a third of Institutional Members or on the decision of the Council.
3. The place and date shall be fixed by the Council upon proposal by the Executive Committee.
4. The notices convening the General Assembly shall be sent at least five months beforehand.

**ART. X: Responsibilities of the General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly, on the members' vote (institutional members have ten votes each; individual and honorary members have one vote each; supporting members have no vote):
  - (a) elects the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the members and deputy members of the Council for the duration of the following session;
  - (b) elects the members of the Auditing Committee;
  - (c) decides on modifications of the Statutes;
  - (d) decides on the dissolution of the Section (cf. Art. XXI);
  - (e) considers the activities of the Council and the Executive Committee and approves the accounts on the advice of the Auditing Committee;
  - (f) discusses the report of the Executive Committee concerning the activities of the Section in the period following the previous ordinary meeting;
  - (g) decides on the general work programme for the following session;
  - (h) fixes the amount of the membership fees for the following session,
  - (i) approves the by-laws prepared by the Council.

**ART. XI: Council**

1. Apart from the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, the Council shall consist of at least 5 members elected for the following session and recruited among the members. The titular Council members shall be re-eligible for more than two terms only if their mandate is different and the interest of the organisation so requires it. No country may have more than two members.
2. As a general rule, the Council meets at least every two years, but certain specific decisions, such as the agenda of the General Assembly, can be taken by correspondence with the Executive Committee
3. The persons responsible for the bodies in charge of scientific and technical tasks may be asked by the Executive Committee to attend the Council meetings as advisers.
4. The notices convening a meeting shall be sent at least one month beforehand.

### **ART. XII: Responsibilities of the Council**

**1. The Council:**

- (a) approves and supervises the work programmes of the Section
- (b) ensures the functioning of the Section and executes the programme of activities established by the General Assembly
- (c) decides on the establishment and termination of all bodies in charge of scientific or technical tasks;
- (d) appoints or/and approves the persons responsible for the bodies in charge of scientific and technical tasks, defines these tasks and take all the necessary measures for the proper functioning of these bodies
- (e) appoints the scientific counsellors and specialists according to ART. VIII and to the by-laws
- (f) appoints if necessary, and after proposal by the Executive Committee, a Sub-Committee for Planning and administrators to assist the Secretary-General and the Treasurer. The latter two can be replaced by the assistant administrators in case of absence or resignation
- (g) draws up the budget and oversees the financial management of the Section
- (h) appoints temporary personnel
- (i) approves the by-laws proposed by the technical bodies under it (Expert Groups, Commissions, Working Groups, Study Groups, etc.)
- (j) decides on temporary installations necessary for work on biological and integrated control once the finance is assured
- (k) approves the agenda for the meetings of the General Assembly
- (l) undertakes any other task that the General Assembly may assign to it
- (m) appoints from among its members the representative of the Section to the Global Organization
- (n) adopts its own procedure and designate persons authorized to sign for the Section.

### **ART. XIII: Executive Committee**

- 1.** The Executive Committee consists of the President, one to three Vice-President(s), the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
- 2.** The Executive Committee is committed to:
  - a. conduct the business of the Section according to the decisions of Council.
  - b. meet as often as necessary, according to a procedure described in the by-laws.
  - c. report on its activities to Council and ask Council to confirm emergency measures.
- 3.** Roles of the Executive members are:
  - a. The **President**: rules the Executive Committee and takes care of group cohesion, coordinates the Regional Section activities, represents the Global IOBC in his/her Region and can represent his/her Region at Global IOBC meetings. The President specifies complementary roles to his Vice-Presidents if he/she has more than one. The President can, with other Executive Committee members, initiate meetings with leaders or specific Institutional representatives in order to make the IOBC more visible, and to facilitate Biocontrol research acceptance within countries which have laws that remain a threat to this field.
  - b. The **Vice-President**: serves as the program chair for the Regional Section. In case of the inability of the President to serve, the Vice-President shall become President for the remainder of the current term of office. In case of two Vice-Presidents, the President could decide to specify both roles, but the President's

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replacement is always devolved to a Vice-President.

- c. The **Secretary General**: shall be responsible for publication of the Regional Newsletter and shall act as a liaison for Regional information to be included in the global newsletter. The Secretary General shall also keep minutes of annual meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee.
- d. The **Treasurer**: shall have custody of all accounts, securities, property, and records of the Region. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget, maintain membership and fee records, and pay the annual global membership fee and member subscriptions to the journal BioControl.

### **ART. XIV: Auditing Committee**

1. The Auditing Committee consists of three members nominated for the following session by the General Assembly and chosen from outside the Council.
2. The members of the Auditing Committee may be re-elected. An equitable distribution of the membership between the countries represented in the Section must be guaranteed. No country may have more than one member.
3. The Auditing Committee is required to check on the financial management of the Section. It may request the help of a professional auditor.

### **ART. XV: Other Bodies**

1. To achieve the aims defined in Art. II of the present Statutes, the Executive Committee may take the initiative to establish the bodies (Expert Groups, Commissions, Working Groups, Study Groups, etc.) responsible for scientific or technical tasks. The operating methods of these bodies shall be defined by the by-laws.

### **ART. XVI: Quorum and Votes**

1. The quorum at the ordinary General Assembly will be reached when at least one third of the potential votes of members are present or represented. For modifications of the statutes, the requested quorum is of half of the potential votes of members. If the quorum is not attained, a new General Assembly shall be held, and shall constitute the quorum, independently of the number of members present or represented. Members are considered as represented if they have designated their representatives by writing to the President before the meeting.
2. All voting members (i.e. institutional, individual and honorary members) shall participate in the election of the new council and Auditing Committee, as well as in the vote concerning the modifications of the statutes. The rule shall consist of ten votes for each institutional member and one vote for each individual or honorary member. The voting shall be validated by one third of the expressed votes at least for the election of the Council, and by one half for the modifications of the statutes. Votes may take place by mail (if the quorum is not attained same disposition as in the previous paragraph).
3. The decisions of all the bodies of the Section are taken by a majority of the votes, except in the cases covered by Art. XX.3 and Art. XXI.1 of the present Statutes.
4. In case of equality of votes in the Council or Executive Committee, the President decides.
5. Voting shall be secret.

### **ART XVII: Statutes of Personnel**

1. Members of statutory bodies of the Section shall receive no payment for services, except the allowances cited in Art. XVIII.
2. The Section may recruit no permanent personnel but may appoint temporary technical workers, whose appointment and payment shall be decided by Council.

3. The suitability of members who want responsibilities under ATRS shall be fixed by the by-laws.

**ART. XVIII: Allowances**

1. Members of the Council, the Executive Committee and the Auditing Committee attending official meetings on behalf of the Section may receive travelling expenses and a subsistence allowance fixed by the by-laws and approved by the General Assembly.
2. Experts invited to meetings may receive from the Section subsistence allowances and travelling expenses fixed by the Executive Committee.
3. Attendance at a General Assembly shall not automatically entitle a member to subsistence or travelling expenses from the Section.

**ART. XIX: Agenda for the General Assembly**

1. The President decides on the agenda in agreement with the Council.
2. Any proposal arising from a member of the Section and intended for discussion in the General Assembly shall be transmitted to the President at least three months before that meeting for inclusion on the agenda.
3. The General Assembly may only take decisions on matters placed on the agenda.

**ART. XX: Changes in Statutes**

1. Changes in the Statutes can be proposed by the Council or by any of the institutional members of WPRS.
2. The texts of proposals for modifications of the Statutes shall be transmitted to the Members three months before the General Assembly.
3. Changes in the Statutes shall be adopted when supported by a majority of the votes cast in the General Assembly.

**ART. XXI: Dissolution**

On the dissolution of the Section, its assets shall be assigned to IOBC Global.

**ART. XXII: Validity**

The French text so deposited shall be authoritative in respect of any disputes arising from interpretation of the Statutes.