

PSI Constitutional Working Group (CWG) meeting 17 November 2015, Geneva

Amendment Proposals / Issues Discussed

Introduction

There was general agreement among CWG members that the PSI constitution should be a slim document, logical, unambiguous, written in clear and concrete English, and easy to handle. It does not need to foresee every contingency, but it must abide by the relevant legal regulations. The constitutional core text should outline the fundamental principles, while all procedural details should be part of the annexes, which can be changed in between congresses.

There was also agreement that the secretariat should look into constitutions of other GUFs for advice and orientation.

Below you will find all proposals and suggestions expressed at the meeting. Proposals shown in **bold** in the table below were part of the topical issues endorsed by the SC-19 on the following day (18/11/2015).

Proposal /Issue	Related article(s) in the actual PSI constitution incl. annexes	Comments/proposals by the secretariat	Priority rating from 1 (top) to 5 (lowest)	Number of replies
1. Clarify the double legal status of PSI	N/A	At present, there is no provision. There is no provision either about the location of the PSI HO. Art. 7.1i) only says that the HO location is decided by the EB.	1.0	12
2. Clarify the General Secretary's employment status in relation to the Congress mandate	Art. 10, esp. 10.3	Depending on the recommendations of the special WG on the double status of PSI.	1.0	12
3. Review General Secretary election procedures and explore alternative voting tools allowing large participation of all affiliates	Art. 6.9, Art. 10.1 and Annex 4, Participation at congress, Item h).	At present, the process is governed by ad-hoc rules endorsed by the PSI EB/SC.	2.1	11
4. Should there be a limit to the number of mandates of the General Secretary, the President, and of EB members?	N/A	These new provisions would be part of Art. 10.1 and Annex 5 respectively 6.	3.1	10
5. Clarification of election/nomination procedures of SUBRACs/RECs members in relation to the relevant regional conference	Art. 12, esp. 12.2, 12.3 and 12.5 Annex 8		2.0	10
6. Geographic boundaries: examine if subregional boundaries still reflect the political situation	Art. 7.5 and Annex 11	These boundaries may be changed any time by EB/SC, given they are listed in the Annex.	3.8	9

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7. National structures to be added under Art 12	N/A	Currently, these structures have been established in certain countries only, upon the initiative of PSI affiliates.	3.8	11
8. Explore a possible widening of PSI's organising scope: informal and self-employed workers, "associate" membership for professional and civil society organisations and cooperatives	Art. 2 and Art. 3		1.7	11
9. Establish a constitutional base for sectoral work and/or add sectoral representation to RECs	Art. 12.5	This base already exists: sectoral advisory bodies may be established by any region/subregion.	3.6	11
10. Establish substitutes for vice-presidents	Art. 9, esp. 9.2	These substitutes should be EB members to ensure consistency.	2.0	12
11. Explore how to enhance participation of young workers in PSI decision-making	Art. 7.3	Quotas?	2.1	12
12. Consider a solidarity contribution to PSI on top of the affiliation fees, to ensure that PSI's union development work be sustainably funded.	N/A		3.5	8
13. Reconsider minimum fee rule	Annex 2c	The minimum fees was originally established to cater for the general administrative cost of an affiliate. But it obviously also creates unfairness: Certain unions in 10% countries with 100 members pay proportionally 5-6 times more per member than big affiliates...	3.1	10
14. Streamline membership procedures, including application process	Annex 1	Annex 1 may be modified without a Congress decision.	2.1	8