

STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR EMERGING LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (IFELT)

Publication-Ready Final International Edition

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be:

International Forum for Emerging Law and Technology (IFELT)

hereinafter referred to in this Statute as the “**Forum.**”

Article 2 – Headquarters

The principal headquarters of the Forum shall be determined by a resolution of the Board of Trustees upon the Forum’s legal establishment.

The Board of Trustees may establish offices, branches, liaison points, or representative presences in any country or territory whenever such action serves the interests, objectives, and activities of the Forum.

Article 3 – Official Languages

Arabic and English shall be the official languages of the Forum.

Other languages may be used in activities, meetings, publications, programs, or communications whenever deemed necessary or appropriate.

Article 4 – Financial Year

The financial year of the Forum shall commence on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each calendar year.

The Board of Trustees may adopt special transitional arrangements for the Forum’s first financial year where necessary.

Article 5 – Governing Instruments

The Forum, its activities, bodies, and operations shall be governed by:

- a. The Constitutive Charter and Articles of Association of the Forum;
- b. This Statute;
- c. Regulations, policies, procedures, and resolutions adopted in accordance therewith.

In the event of any inconsistency between governing instruments, precedence shall be given in the following order:

1. The Constitutive Charter and Articles of Association;
2. This Statute;
3. Regulations, policies, procedures, and organizational resolutions.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERSHIP

Article 6 – Categories of Membership

Membership in the Forum shall consist of the following categories:

- a. Founding Membership;
- b. Active Membership;
- c. Institutional Membership;
- d. Honorary Membership.

The applicable regulations and policies shall determine the eligibility requirements, procedures, rights, and obligations associated with each membership category, provided that such provisions remain consistent with this Statute.

Article 7 – Eligibility for Membership

Membership may be granted to natural persons and legal entities possessing competence, expertise, qualifications, or a demonstrated interest in the objectives, mission, and principles of the Forum.

Applicants shall undertake to comply with the Constitutive Charter, this Statute, and all regulations, policies, and decisions adopted by the Forum.

Article 8 – Admission of Members

Applications for membership shall be reviewed and decided upon by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the applicable criteria and procedures.

The Board may delegate administrative processes relating to the receipt and review of applications; however, the authority to approve or reject membership applications shall remain vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees.

Article 9 – Membership Fees

The Board of Trustees may establish membership fees, periodic subscriptions, or exemptions for specific membership categories whenever deemed appropriate to support the objectives and activities of the Forum.

Article 10 – Rights of Members

Members shall enjoy rights consistent with their respective membership categories, including in particular:

- a. Participation in the Forum's activities, programs, and initiatives;
- b. Access to services, resources, and opportunities provided by the Forum;
- c. Participation in committees, projects, and events;
- d. Submission of opinions, recommendations, and proposals.

Founding Members, Active Members, and Institutional Members shall possess voting rights within the General Assembly in accordance with this Statute.

Each Institutional Member shall be entitled to one vote.

Honorary Members shall not possess voting rights unless they concurrently hold another category of membership conferring such rights.

Article 11 – Obligations of Members

Members shall:

- a. Respect and comply with the Constitutive Charter, this Statute, and all applicable regulations and policies;
- b. Support the objectives, mission, and principles of the Forum;
- c. Safeguard the reputation and legitimate interests of the Forum;
- d. Uphold principles of integrity, professional respect, and cooperation;

- e. Fulfil any applicable financial obligations;
- f. Disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in accordance with the policies adopted by the Forum.

Article 12 – Termination of Membership

Membership shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- a. Resignation;
- b. Death of a natural person or dissolution of a legal entity;
- c. Loss of eligibility requirements;
- d. Failure to fulfil essential obligations associated with membership;
- e. A decision terminating membership adopted in accordance with this Statute.

Article 13 – Suspension of Membership

The Board of Trustees may suspend the membership of any member where serious grounds justify such action.

Whenever practicable, the member concerned shall be informed of the reasons for suspension and afforded a reasonable opportunity to present observations before a final decision is made.

Article 14 – Review and Appeal

Any applicant whose membership application has been rejected, or any member whose membership has been suspended or terminated, may request reconsideration in accordance with the procedures and timeframes established by the applicable regulations.

The decision of the Board of Trustees upon reconsideration shall be final.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 15 – Composition of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of all members entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of this Statute.

Article 16 – Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall constitute the supreme governing authority of the Forum and shall, in particular:

- a. Elect the members of the Board of Trustees;
- b. Approve amendments to the Constitutive Charter and this Statute in accordance with their respective provisions;
- c. Consider the strategic directions and general policies of the Forum;
- d. Receive and review reports submitted in accordance with this Statute;
- e. Exercise all powers expressly conferred upon it by this Statute.

Article 17 – Ordinary Meetings

The General Assembly shall convene in ordinary session at least once during each calendar year.

Meetings may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format, in accordance with the procedures and technological arrangements approved by the Forum.

Article 18 – Extraordinary Meetings

The General Assembly may convene in extraordinary session whenever necessary:

- a. Upon a resolution of the Board of Trustees;
- b. Upon a written request submitted by not less than one-quarter of the members entitled to vote.

The deliberations of an extraordinary meeting shall be limited exclusively to the matters for which the meeting was convened.

Article 19 – Notice of Meetings

Notice of meetings of the General Assembly shall be communicated to members within a reasonable period prior to the meeting and through such means and procedures as may be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The notice shall include the agenda and all essential information relevant to the meeting.

Article 20 – Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the General Assembly shall be constituted by the presence of an absolute majority of members entitled to vote.

Where quorum is not achieved, a second meeting shall be convened in accordance with the approved procedures. The second meeting shall be valid regardless of the number of members present unless otherwise provided by this Statute.

Article 21 – Voting

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be adopted by a simple majority of the valid votes cast, unless this Statute expressly requires a qualified majority.

In the event of a tie in matters not requiring a qualified majority, the proposal shall be deemed rejected.

Article 22 – Electronic Meetings and Voting

The General Assembly may conduct its meetings through appropriate electronic communication and participation platforms.

Voting may likewise be conducted electronically or through any approved technological mechanism that ensures procedural integrity, verification of participants' identities, and reliability of results.

Electronic meetings, decisions, and voting procedures shall have the same legal and institutional validity and effect as meetings and decisions conducted in person.

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted unless expressly authorized by this Statute or any future amendment thereto.

CHAPTER IV

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Article 23 – Composition of the Board of Trustees

The strategic management and oversight of the Forum shall be entrusted to a Board of Trustees consisting of nine (9) members elected by the General Assembly.

In electing the Board, due consideration shall be given to geographical diversity, professional representation, and disciplinary balance, consistent with the international character of the Forum.

Article 24 – Term of Office

Members of the Board of Trustees shall serve a term of two (2) years commencing from the date of their election.

Members may be re-elected for successive terms without limitation unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly or expressly provided by this Statute.

Article 25 – Election of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the General Assembly through a voting process conducted in accordance with approved electoral procedures.

The nine members of the Board shall be elected simultaneously.

Any member eligible to vote and stand for election under this Statute shall be entitled to seek election to the Board of Trustees.

Article 26 – Vacancies

Where a vacancy arises on the Board of Trustees for any reason, the Board may appoint a replacement member to serve for the remainder of the ongoing term.

Article 27 – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Board of Trustees shall elect from among its members a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall:

- a. Preside over meetings of the Board;
- b. Represent the Forum in its institutional relations, events, and official engagements;
- c. Oversee the implementation of Board decisions within the limits of the authority vested in the office;
- d. Exercise any other powers assigned by this Statute or by resolutions of the Board.

The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson whenever the latter is absent or unable to act.

Article 28 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall possess all powers necessary to advance the objectives of the Forum and provide strategic governance and oversight, including in particular:

- a. Establishing general policies and strategic plans;
- b. Adopting regulations, policies, and internal governance instruments;
- c. Admitting, suspending, and terminating membership in accordance with this Statute;
- d. Appointing and dismissing the Secretary-General;
- e. Supervising the work of the Secretariat General;
- f. Approving budgets, operational plans, and major programs;
- g. Establishing specialized committees and bodies and defining their mandates;
- h. Approving partnership and cooperation agreements or delegating authority for their conclusion;
- i. Exercising any powers not expressly assigned to the General Assembly or another body of the Forum.

Article 29 – Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall convene at least four (4) ordinary meetings annually.

Extraordinary meetings may be convened:

- a. By the Chairperson;
- b. By the Vice-Chairperson when the Chairperson is absent or unable to act;
- c. Upon the request of not fewer than three members of the Board.

Meetings may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

Article 30 – Decision-Making

The quorum for meetings of the Board of Trustees shall consist of an absolute majority of its members.

Decisions shall be adopted by a majority of the members present and participating in the vote unless otherwise provided by this Statute.

In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairperson of the meeting shall be decisive.

CHAPTER V

SECRETARIAT GENERAL AND SECRETARY-GENERAL

Article 31 – Secretariat General

The Secretariat General shall constitute the executive arm of the Forum and shall be responsible for the administration of its day-to-day operations and the implementation of its policies, programs, and decisions in accordance with this Statute and the directions of the Board of Trustees.

Article 32 – Appointment of the Secretary-General

The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Secretary-General of the Forum in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Board.

Article 33 – Term of Office

The Secretary-General shall serve a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed for one or more additional terms.

Article 34 – Institutional Position of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall be the chief executive officer of the Forum and shall perform his or her duties under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

The office of Secretary-General shall be incompatible with membership of the Board of Trustees or with any equivalent oversight position within the Forum.

Article 35 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall direct the Secretariat General and supervise its activities, including in particular:

- a. Implementing decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees;
- b. Managing the Forum's programs, projects, and daily activities;
- c. Preparing operational plans and overseeing their implementation;

- d. Preparing the proposed annual budget and administrative and financial reports for submission to the Board of Trustees;
- e. Managing human, financial, and administrative resources in accordance with approved policies;
- f. Representing the Forum in executive and administrative matters delegated by the Board of Trustees;
- g. Exercising any additional powers falling within the scope of executive management.

Article 36 – Participation in Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The Secretary-General may attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and participate in discussions, present reports, and submit recommendations relating to the activities of the Secretariat General.

The Secretary-General shall not possess voting rights within the Board of Trustees.

Article 37 – Expiration of Term and Removal from Office

The mandate of the Secretary-General shall terminate upon:

- a. Expiration of the term of office;
- b. Resignation;
- c. Death;
- d. Permanent incapacity;
- e. A decision of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees may relieve the Secretary-General of his or her duties in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Board.

CHAPTER VI

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES AND BODIES

Article 38 – Establishment of Specialized Committees and Bodies

The Board of Trustees may establish permanent, temporary, advisory, or specialized committees and bodies whenever deemed necessary to advance the objectives, programs, and institutional needs of the Forum.

Article 39 – Composition and Mandates

The Board of Trustees shall determine the mandates, powers, duration, composition, establishment procedures, and termination mechanisms of all specialized committees and bodies.

Article 40 – Membership of Committees

Specialized committees and bodies may include members of the Forum, external experts, advisors, or any combination thereof, depending upon the nature of their functions and mandates.

Article 41 – Reports and Recommendations

Specialized committees and bodies shall submit their reports and recommendations to the competent authority within the Forum.

Such recommendations shall not be binding unless formally approved by the competent authority in accordance with this Statute.

Article 42 – Internal Regulations

The Board of Trustees may adopt specific regulations governing the operation of committees and specialized bodies in order to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and the achievement of their intended objectives.

CHAPTER VII

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Article 43 – Financial Resources of the Forum

The resources of the Forum shall consist of lawful sources compatible with its objectives, mission, and principles, including in particular:

- a. Membership fees and subscriptions;
- b. Donations, grants, gifts, and bequests accepted in accordance with this Statute;

- c. Revenues generated from activities, programs, services, and projects organized or provided by the Forum;
- d. Revenues derived from publications, training activities, consultancy services, studies, events, and conferences;
- e. Any other resources approved by the Board of Trustees and consistent with the objectives of the Forum.

Article 44 – Revenue-Generating Activities

The Forum may organize or provide activities, programs, services, and projects capable of generating revenue, provided that such activities remain consistent with its mission and objectives.

All revenues derived from such activities shall be used exclusively to support the operations, programs, projects, and institutional development of the Forum.

Article 45 – Non-Profit Character

The Forum shall operate exclusively as a non-profit organization.

No profits, financial surpluses, assets, or resources of the Forum shall be distributed to members, members of the Board of Trustees, office holders, or any other person, except for legitimate reimbursements, compensation, or payments authorized under approved policies and regulations.

Article 46 – Budget and Financial Administration

The Secretariat General shall prepare the proposed annual budget together with the necessary financial statements and reports and shall submit them to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Board of Trustees shall oversee the financial administration of the Forum in accordance with this Statute and applicable regulations.

Article 47 – Financial Oversight and Audit

The Board of Trustees shall establish appropriate mechanisms for financial oversight, auditing, accountability, and risk management to ensure the sound administration of resources and the protection of the Forum's assets.

The Board may appoint an external auditor or an independent auditing body whenever it considers such action appropriate.

Article 48 – Funding and Institutional Independence

The Forum shall not accept any funding, financial contribution, sponsorship, or support that could compromise its institutional independence, integrity, neutrality, or mission.

The Board of Trustees shall determine whether any proposed funding arrangement complies with these principles.

Article 49 – Separate Legal and Financial Capacity

The Forum shall maintain financial and legal patrimony separate from that of its members and office holders.

Its assets, resources, and property shall be used exclusively for the achievement of its objectives and the implementation of its activities, programs, and projects.

CHAPTER VIII

PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Article 50 – Principle of Cooperation and Partnerships

The Forum shall promote cooperation and develop partnerships with entities whose activities and missions are compatible with the objectives and mission of the Forum, in a manner that supports its programs, initiatives, and institutional development.

Article 51 – Partner Institutions

The Forum may establish cooperative relationships, partnerships, or agreements with:

- a. Universities and academic institutions;
- b. Research and policy centers;
- c. International and regional organizations;
- d. Judicial and professional bodies;
- e. Public and private institutions;
- f. Non-governmental organizations;

g. Any other entities whose activities are compatible with the objectives and mission of the Forum.

Article 52 – Forms of Cooperation

Cooperation and partnership activities may include, without limitation:

- a. Joint programs and projects;
- b. Conferences, seminars, forums, and professional events;
- c. Exchange of expertise, knowledge, and information;
- d. Joint research, studies, publications, and reports;
- e. Development of training programs and professional initiatives;
- f. Any other form of cooperation that contributes to the achievement of the Forum's objectives.

Article 53 – Approval of Partnerships

Partnership agreements, cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, and similar arrangements entered into by the Forum shall be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees or by a duly authorized delegate, in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

Article 54 – Institutional Independence

No partnership, cooperation arrangement, alliance, or network membership shall compromise the institutional independence, integrity, neutrality, governance autonomy, or decision-making authority of the Forum.

The Forum shall preserve full independence in the management of its affairs and the pursuit of its mission.

Article 55 – Membership in Networks and Alliances

The Forum may join professional, academic, scientific, regional, or international networks, alliances, and platforms that are consistent with its objectives and mission.

Such participation shall be subject to a decision of the Board of Trustees.

CHAPTER IX

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DATA

Article 56 – General Principles

The Forum shall respect and protect intellectual property rights in accordance with applicable laws, international standards, and recognized best practices.

The Forum shall seek to maintain an appropriate balance between the rights of individual creators and the institutional interests of the Forum in relation to its programs, initiatives, publications, and outputs.

Article 57 – Individual Works

Intellectual property rights relating to research papers, studies, articles, publications, books, reports, and other intellectual works produced by members, experts, consultants, or contributors shall remain vested in their respective authors unless otherwise agreed in writing.

The Forum may publish, disseminate, archive, or otherwise make available such works in accordance with applicable agreements, licenses, and policies.

Article 58 – Institutional Works and Outputs

Intellectual property rights relating to projects, programs, databases, digital platforms, institutional reports, educational materials, publications, and other outputs developed by or for the Forum shall belong to the Forum unless otherwise provided in a specific agreement.

Article 59 – Rights of Use, Publication, and Dissemination

The Forum may use, publish, translate, reproduce, adapt, distribute, archive, and further develop works and outputs in respect of which it holds ownership rights or valid usage rights, subject to applicable policies, licenses, and legal obligations.

Article 60 – Data and Information Management

The Forum shall protect all data and information obtained, processed, managed, stored, or generated in the course of its activities, programs, projects, and operations.

Such data and information shall be used lawfully, responsibly, ethically, and in accordance with applicable laws and approved policies.

Article 61 – Name, Logo, and Visual Identity

The Forum shall possess and protect all rights relating to its name, logo, visual identity, institutional branding, trademarks, digital assets, and official content.

No person or entity may use, reproduce, exploit, or represent any such element in a manner suggesting official endorsement, affiliation, partnership, accreditation, or authorization without the prior approval of the competent authority of the Forum.

Article 62 – Licensing and Regulatory Policies

The Board of Trustees may adopt policies, regulations, licensing frameworks, and operational procedures governing intellectual property, data protection, publication rights, digital content, access rights, and the use or reuse of institutional materials in a manner consistent with the objectives and mission of the Forum.

CHAPTER X

INTEGRITY, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GOVERNANCE

Article 63 – General Principles

The Forum, its governing bodies, members, office holders, committees, and representatives shall adhere to the principles of integrity, independence, impartiality, accountability, transparency, and good governance in all activities, decisions, and institutional operations.

Article 64 – Conflict of Interest

Members of the General Assembly, members of the Board of Trustees, members of committees and bodies, the Secretary-General, and all office holders of the Forum shall disclose any personal, professional, financial, institutional, or other interest that may give rise to an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest in relation to any matter under consideration.

Article 65 – Recusal and Non-Participation

Any person subject to an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest shall refrain from participating in deliberations, discussions, recommendations,

voting, or decision-making processes relating to the matter concerned, in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

Article 66 – Prohibition of Abuse of Position

No office, title, authority, information, resource, or institutional asset of the Forum shall be used for improper personal, professional, financial, political, or institutional benefit, nor for the granting of any unjustified advantage to any person or entity.

Article 67 – Confidentiality

Members, office holders, employees, experts, consultants, and representatives of the Forum shall maintain the confidentiality of information, data, records, and documents not intended for public disclosure.

Such obligations shall continue after the termination of membership, employment, office, or assignment unless disclosure is authorized by the competent authority or required by law.

Article 68 – Separation of Oversight and Executive Functions

The Forum shall operate on the principle of separation between strategic and oversight functions on the one hand and executive and operational functions on the other.

No person may simultaneously serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and as Secretary-General or hold any equivalent senior executive position within the Forum.

Article 69 – Governance Policies and Codes of Conduct

The Board of Trustees may adopt governance policies, codes of conduct, ethical standards, compliance procedures, accountability frameworks, and other governance instruments necessary to strengthen integrity, transparency, institutional effectiveness, and responsible management within the Forum.

CHAPTER XI

AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTE

Article 70 – Initiation of Amendments

Amendments to this Statute may be proposed by:

- a. The Board of Trustees;
- b. Not fewer than one-quarter of the members of the General Assembly entitled to vote.

Article 71 – Amendment Procedures

Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees.

The Board shall place the proposed amendment on the agenda of the first meeting of the General Assembly convened after fulfillment of the applicable procedural requirements.

Article 72 – Adoption of Amendments

No amendment to this Statute shall be adopted unless approved by a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast by members participating in the vote within the General Assembly.

Article 73 – Entry into Force

An amendment shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the General Assembly unless the resolution approving the amendment expressly provides for a different effective date.

CHAPTER XII

TRANSITIONAL AND FOUNDING PROVISIONS

Article 74 – Founding Steering Committee

The founders shall establish a Founding Steering Committee composed of nine (9) members.

The Committee shall be responsible for managing and supervising the founding phase of the Forum until the election of the first Board of Trustees in accordance with this Statute.

The Committee shall possess all powers necessary to complete the establishment process and to adopt the organizational and administrative arrangements required for the commencement of the Forum's activities.

The Chairperson of the Founding Steering Committee shall be selected from among the original founders of the Forum and shall be designated in the founding documentation or in the resolution establishing the Committee.

The Committee may appoint a Vice-Chairperson from among its members.

The Committee shall meet whenever necessary upon the invitation of its Chairperson.

Its meetings shall be quorate upon the presence of an absolute majority of its members.

Decisions shall be adopted by a majority of the members present and participating in the vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairperson of the meeting shall be decisive.

Article 75 – First Founding General Assembly

The Founding Steering Committee shall recruit and admit founding members in accordance with the objectives, principles, and standards of the Forum.

The Committee shall convene the First Founding General Assembly once the necessary requirements for its convening have been fulfilled.

The First Founding General Assembly shall elect the first Board of Trustees of the Forum.

Article 76 – Transfer of Powers

The mandate of the Founding Steering Committee shall automatically terminate upon the election of the first Board of Trustees and the assumption of office by the elected Board.

All powers, responsibilities, authorities, rights, obligations, and institutional functions relating to the governance and administration of the Forum shall thereafter transfer to the elected Board of Trustees and to the institutional bodies established under this Statute.

Article 77 – Dissolution of the Forum and Disposition of Assets

The Forum may be dissolved only by a resolution of the General Assembly adopted by a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast.

Upon dissolution, all liabilities and obligations of the Forum shall first be settled in accordance with applicable laws and legal obligations.

Any remaining assets and resources following liquidation shall be transferred, pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly, to one or more non-profit entities whose objectives are substantially similar to those of the Forum.

FINAL ADOPTION CLAUSE

This Statute was adopted by the three Founding Members of the International Forum for Emerging Law and Technology (IFELT), who confirmed their approval in writing by affixing their names and signatures below.

The Statute shall subsequently be presented to the First Founding General Assembly for broader institutional endorsement and for consideration of any amendments proposed in accordance with the Constitutive Charter and the provisions of this Statute.

FOUNDERS' ADOPTION AND EXECUTION PAGE

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____