

**DRAFTS FIMEM STATUTES
SUBMITTED BY THE FIMEM BOARD
FOR THE FIMEM 2024 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN OAXACA (MEXICO)**

**VERSION TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
THE FRENCH VERSION IS THE REFERENCE VERSION**

FIMEM STATUTES

The first statutes were those of the ICEM, extended to the FIMEM in 1957.

Statutes revised at the 1998 General Assembly (GA) in Japan.

Statutes revised in 2014 to change the registered office.

Statutes amended on August 9, 2024 at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Oaxaca (Mexico).

Acronyms used

GA - refers to any type of General Assembly

oGA GAo - ordinary General Assembly in person or virtual

eGA GAe - extraordinary General Assembly

Chair and Vice-Chair (Chairpersons) – presidency and vice-presidency at the GA

BD - Board of Directors (CA)

OC - RIDEF Organizing Committee

COFIL - Steering committee

FIMEM - International Federation of Modern School Movements (Fédération Internationale des Mouvements d'École Moderne)

IHDI - Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index

IR - Internal Regulations (Règlement intérieur)

RIDEF - International Meeting of Freinet Educators (Rencontre internationale des éducateurs et éducatrices Freinet)

Art. 1 - FIMEM - Principles

Art. 1.1 - Foundation - Registered office

The association known as "Fédération Internationale des Mouvements d'École Moderne", FIMEM, was founded in 1957.

The location of the registered office is indicated in the Internal Regulations (IR).

Art. 1.2 – Duration

The duration of the association is unlimited. Its dissolution can only be decided by an Extraordinary General Assembly (eGA).

Art. 1.3 – Aims

The FIMEM is a Federation of Pedagogical Movements throughout the world that are committed to practicing the Freinet pedagogy, to respecting the FIMEM Charter of the Modern School and to respecting the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations - UN - 1989).

FIMEM is a secular and democratic federation that promotes popular education with a view to public and emancipative education for all.

FIMEM has no profit-making aims.

Its aims are:

- to promote education that respects the principles of Freinet pedagogy;
- to promote educational, social, and environmental policies that respect human rights, equality, solidarity and sustainability;
- to facilitate communication between member movements;
- encourage correspondence and international exchanges between children, adolescents, and adults;
- to promote the training of educators in Freinet pedagogy;
- to produce and publish research documents on Freinet pedagogy.

Art. 2 – FIMEM - Membership

Art. 2.1 - Obligations for member movements

Each Movement affiliated to the FIMEM, as defined in Article 1.3 of the Statutes, must obligatorily:

- operate in a geographical area of more than 10,000 km²
- be present in at least five educational institutions, with a minimum of twenty members.
- be democratically organized.
- provide documentation on its organization, the minutes of an annual decision-making assembly and a biennial activity report.
- pay its membership fees.
- commit to participating in the work of the FIMEM.
- be in contact with other movements.
- appoint delegates.

Art. 2.2 - Candidature to become a member of the FIMEM

Art 2.2.1 – Mentorship

Movements applying to become members of FIMEM must choose as their mentor a movement which is already a member of the FIMEM for at least three years and with which it will work actively.

The mentor movement submits the application to the Board of Directors BD of the FIMEM.

After verification, the FIMEM Board proposes this candidature to the FIMEM General Assembly (GA), which accepts or rejects it. v

Art 2.2.2 - Grouping of movements

Groupings of movements and supranational or international groupings must be presented by the BD of the FIMEM to the ordinary General Assembly (oGA), which recognises their contribution to the development of Freinet pedagogy.

The member movement of a grouping retains its sovereignty within the FIMEM.

Art. 2.3 - Number of movements

The FIMEM recognises only one movement per country.

The Internal Regulations IR present some exceptions to this rule.

Art 2.4 - Groups in formation

The case of groups in formation that do not yet meet the criteria for membership is analysed in the IR.

Art 2.5 - Deregistration of an affiliated movement

The BD proposes to the ordinary General Assembly (oGA) the removal of any movement which no longer complies with the conditions of affiliation defined in the FIMEM Statutes, the Internal Regulations and the Charter.

Art. 3 – General Assembly

Art. 3.1 – Composition of the ordinary General Meeting (oGA)

The oGA is made up of:

- all the delegates of each member movement who have paid their membership fees.
- members of the FIMEM BD in office, without voting rights.

Art. 3.2 - Convocation of the oGA

The oGA is convened at least once every two years by the Board, at least three months in advance.

It may also be convened more often by videoconference by the BD, at the request of two-thirds of its members or at the request of one-third of the delegates' mandates.

To deliberate validly, the quorum must be 50% + one vote of the delegates' mandates.

If the quorum of half plus one is not reached, a second oGA is convened by the BD. Then, whatever the number of mandates present, the oGA can validly deliberate.

In virtual form, the oGA may be convened at least one month in advance using the digital tools available, for any important and urgent reason affecting how the FIMEM works.

Art. 3.3 –oGA phases

The oGA is organised in successive phases, in particular: plenary meetings, language group meetings and deliberation meetings.

Additional virtual GAo may be organised in other ways.

Art. 3.4 - Functions of the oGA

The functions of the GAo oGA are to :

- define FIMEM's vision, educational and political strategy and the guidelines [priorities for the further work of the FIMEM].

- deliberate on the issues on the agenda:

a - draw up the financial statement;

b - present the budget;

c - set membership fees;

d - elect the members of the Board, the members of the mediation committee and the auditors;

e - renew its confidence in the commissions and task managers and to approve new proposals from the commissions;

f - admit or expel FIMEM member movements;

g - take any decision concerning the removal of a member of the BD;

h - approve reports on the management of the BD and on the financial and moral situation of the Federation;

h - approve reports on the management of the ~~Board~~ BD: financial report and 'Moral Report' [annual report] of the Federation;

i - approve the Articles of Association and adopt any other regulations necessary for the application of the Articles of Association;

i - approve the Internal Regulations IR and adopt any other regulations necessary for the application of the Statutes;

j - deliberate and vote on motions and proposals from FIMEM member movements, the BD, commissions and the network of delegates;

k - take note of the activity reports of the standing commissions and those in charge of missions;

l - appoint the secretaries in charge and those responsible for the minutes on the proposal of the BD;

m - appoint the Chair of the General Assembly on a proposal of the BD and the structures required for a smooth running of the GA.

Art. 3.5 - Agenda

The oGA agenda is proposed by the BD in the notice sent to member movements three months before the date of the oGA or one month in advance for a virtual oGA, for any important, urgent and justified reason affecting the operation of the FIMEM.

The BD is obliged to place on the agenda any motion or proposal from a member movement, a commission or the network of delegates that is communicated to it at least four months before the date of the GA.

The oGA may vote to change the order of the agenda.

The oGA may vote to add an item to the agenda proposed by the BD or the delegates. In this case, a two-thirds majority is required.

Art. 3.6 - Conduct of the GA and special tasks

The GA, acting on a proposal from the BD, appoints the Chair of the meeting and the Vice-Chair of the meeting.

The BD informs the GA of the team of people who will assist the Chair in running the GA.

Their duties are defined in the IR.

Art. 3.7 - Voting at the GA

The participation of the delegates is compulsory in person or by virtual means.

Only mandated delegates from FIMEM member movements (or their substitutes) are entitled to vote.

The number of delegate mandates per member movement considers the number of members per movement, as specified in the IR.

The number of votes per movement is limited to a maximum of five.

Decisions are taken by an absolute majority of the mandates represented at the GA (50% plus one vote). The minutes are signed by the Chairman of the oGA.

Art 3.8 - Extraordinary General Assembly (eGA)

Art. 3.8.1 - Convocation of the eGA

The eGA may be convened by the BD by an absolute majority (50% plus one vote) of Board members or by an absolute majority of the delegate mandates.

A eGA must be convened to modify the Articles of Association or to dissolve the FIMEM.

Delegates' requests to convene an eGA must be submitted to the BD in writing and signed at least four months before the proposed date of the eGA.

It may be held virtually.

In this case, the eGA is convened by the Board at least three months before the date of the eGA.

Art. 3.8.2 - Quorum at the eGA

At least two thirds (2/3) of the delegates' mandates must be present at the eGA.

If this proportion is not reached, the eGA is reconvened by the BD as soon as possible. It may then validly deliberate regardless of the number of mandates represented.

Art. 3.8.3 - Voting at the eGA

Decisions are taken by a two-thirds majority of mandates.

Art. 4 - Board of Directors (BD)

Art. 4.1 - Composition, term and election of the BD

The FIMEM is administered by a BD of no fewer than five and no more than seven members.

BD members are elected for a four-year term, with the possibility of one additional two-year term.

After each oGA, the BD appoints the main responsibilities, which are as follows :

- the presidency;
- the treasury;
- the secretariat.

The BD works in a collegial and cooperative manner.

Art. 4.2 - Reimbursement of BD expenses

BD members are reimbursed for their expenses but may not receive any salary for their duties.

Art. 4.3 - Nomination of candidates for the BD

Candidates for the BD are nominated by the member movements. The conditions for candidacy are set out in the IR.

Art. 4.4 - Internal organization of the BD

The role of president is to legally represent the FIMEM.

The treasurer is responsible for FIMEM's accounts, in liaison with the federation's bank.

The secretary ensures that information from the BD is circulated throughout the federation.

The BD determines the tasks of each of its members. It may be assisted by persons recognized as competent.

Art. 4.5 - BD representation arrangements

BD members must be present at all statutory meetings as defined in the IR.

The BD may terminate the mandate of one of its members for the reasons specified in the IR.

In cases not provided for in the IR, the decision to terminate the term of office of a BD member may only be taken by a GA.

Art. 4.6 - Duties of the BD

The BD ensures compliance with the FIMEM Modern School Charter, the Statutes, the Internal Regulations and the Guidelines approved by the GA.

The BD assumes the following functions, for which it will rely as much as possible on the work of the network of delegates and the commissions:

- to ensure that a RIDEF is organized every two years by a movement ;

- ensure that the pedagogical Guidelines of the RIDEF are consistent with the philosophical values of the FIMEM ;
- to manage the finances of the FIMEM;
- carry out all its duties in the preparation and running of the GA, as specified in the article of the Statutes relating to the GA;
- take public positions on the basis of the work Guidelines and inform the movements when an important decision is taken as a matter of urgency;
- take any urgent decisions required by current events;
- manage the network of delegates by asking each movement to designate its representative(s);
- coordinate the international working committees commissions
- ensure the dissemination of information for all member movements;
- encourage exchanges between the movements on their activities and shared projects;
- inform the member movements of the progress of its work on a regular basis, and at least three times a year.

Art. 4.7 - BD meetings and minutes

At the BD meetings a majority of the BD members is compulsory.

The secretary will keep the minutes of the meetings. These will be approved by the BD and signed by the President, the Secretary or their representatives.

Art. 4.8 - Management of the FIMEM expenses by the BD

The FIMEM's expenses are authorized by the Presidency and the Treasury after prior approval by the BD.

The financial statement and the provisional budget are presented by the BD to the GA.

Art. 5 - Delegate network

Art. 5.1 - Delegate network

The network of delegates is the body that supports the work and facilitates the implementation of the tasks defined by the GA and coordinated by the BD.

The BD, the delegate network and the commissions interact with each other to support FIMEM's political and educational work.

The delegate network is made up of representatives from each FIMEM member movement.

The delegate is responsible for the relations between the member movement to which he or she belongs and the international organization of the FIMEM.

The number of delegates for each movement is defined in an article of the Internal Regulations the IR.

The BD convenes the delegate network whenever necessary between General Assemblies.

The delegate network may also ask the BD to organize a meeting at the request of two-thirds of the delegates.

5.2 –Delegate network functions

The functions of the delegate network are as follows:

- support the BD in implementing the decisions taken by the GA;
- participate in the preparation and running of the GA and the follow-up of the decisions taken, under the responsibility of the BD;
- make proposals to the BD for the organization of the GA;
- contribute to the work of the commissions in line with the Guidelines laid down by the GA and to support their implementation;
- promote cooperation and communication, exchanges, research and all actions to disseminate Freinet pedagogy between FIMEM movements.

Each delegate must inform his or her movement of his or her work and that of the network.

Art. 6 - Mediation committee

Art. 6.1 - Mediation committee

The mediation committee is convened by the BD in the event of conflict between different FIMEM parties.

It is made up of a basic group of three people appointed at the FIMEM oGA, first and foremost from the list of the most recent presidents or, failing that, from the list of former board members. These people can, if necessary, complete the mediation team to adapt it to the situation.

Art. 6.2 –Functioning of the Mediation Committee

The mediation committee will send its report to the parties concerned and to the BD.

If the parties fail to reach an agreement, the Board may convene an oGA.

Art. 7 - Working commissions and task managers

Art. 7.1 - FIMEM working commissions

The working commissions are at the service of the functioning of the FIMEM and the development of its aims.

Their role may involve logistical support for the running of the FIMEM, or support for the development of reflection on the federation's guidelines.

Whether a commission is permanent or temporary is decided by the oGA.

They may make proposals to the BD and to the oGA.

The list of essential standing commissions is given in the IR.

Members of FIMEM movements are free to participate in the commissions, but must be confirmed in writing by the movement to which they belong.

The creation of a commission may be decided :

- by the oGA on the proposal of the FIMEM BD or of a member movement;
- by decision of the BD between two oGA, either on its own initiative or on a proposal from the delegate network.

A commission must be made up of at least three representatives from different FIMEM member movements in order to guarantee the minimum conditions for cooperation between the movements.

The functioning of the commissions is defined by the IR.

Art. 7.2 - Task managers

The oGA may appoint, from among the members presented by FIMEM member movements, experts to carry out a specific mission for the FIMEM.

The oGA, on a proposal from the BD, defines the objectives of the mission and its duration.

Art. 8 - RIDEF (International meeting of Freinet educators)

Art. 8.1 - Organization of the RIDEF

The RIDEF is held every two years in the country of a FIMEM member movement.

During a RIDEF, the philosophical and pedagogical principles of the Modern School are shared and the Freinet pedagogy is reflected upon in a cooperative and mutually supportive manner, in the light of contemporary problems, from a political, philosophical and intercultural perspective, with respect for human rights and the protection of the planet.

Art. 8.2 - Presentation of the RIDEF project

The proposal for a RIDEF must be presented by a member movement and approved by the oGA for the first time. The proposal must be confirmed by the oGA no later than two years before the RIDEF.

Art. 8.3 - Sharing the responsibilities of a RIDEF

Responsibility for the RIDEF is entrusted collegially to the Organizing Committee (OC), appointed by the organizing country, and to the FIMEM BD.

The work of organizing the RIDEF is supported by FIMEM's permanent "RIDEF" commission.

Taking part in a RIDEF commits each participant to respecting the principles of cooperation, the planned organization, the sharing of tasks and the spirit of solidarity. In the event of serious difficulties, the BD may intervene or convene a meeting of the participants.

Art. 8.4 - RIDEF program

The structure of a RIDEF program must accommodate the various oGA sessions, a possible eGA, long workshops, short workshops, debates and exhibitions.

Art. 8.5 - Running a RIDEF

The RIDEF has 3 main phases:

- a - the preparation phase;
- b - the running phase
- c - the evaluation and communication phase.

These phases are described in a document annexed to the IR.

Art. 8.6 - Administrative and financial responsibilities of a RIDEF

The RIDEF implies mutual responsibility between the BD and the organizing movement, which must jointly assume:

- respective responsibilities for the organization;
- the financial organization of all phases of the RIDEF;
- the distribution of profits or financial losses, shared equally;
- the administrative procedures for obtaining visas.

Art. 8.7 - Financial responsibilities of the Organizing Committee OC

The OC is responsible for the financial management of the RIDEF in accordance with the provisions of the IR.

Art. 8.8 - Solidarity for the RIDEF

FIMEM provides financial support to certain movements to enable their members to take part, in accordance with the provisions set out in the IR.

The persons who benefit from this solidarity are designated by the movements that make the request to the BD.

Art. 8.9 - RIDEF financial report

After the RIDEF, the OC is obliged to provide the BD with a detailed financial statement, within the deadlines set out in the IR.

Art. 9 - FIMEM finances

Art. 9.1 - FIMEM resources

The FIMEM is a non-profit organization.
All work in the Federation is carried out on a voluntary basis.

FIMEM's finances are provided by:

- member fees from affiliated movements;

- donations and subsidies that may be granted;
- profits from RIDEF or other meetings organized by FIMEM.

Art. 9.2 - FIMEM expenses

The expenses allowed to the FIMEM are decided by the oGA.

They are specified in the IR.

Art. 9.3 - The FIMEM reserve fund

The FIMEM has set up a reserve fund.

The amount and purpose of this fund are approved by the oGA.

Art. 9.4 – Auditors

Two auditors are proposed by the BD and elected by the oGA.

Their role is to verify:

- the accuracy of the FIMEM's balance sheet,
- the compliance of the budget with the federation's objectives.

They are available to the BD for consultation.

Art. 10 - Amendments to the Internal Regulations IR

A set of Internal Regulations specifying how the FIMEM operates is appended to these Statutes.

They may be amended by the oGA in accordance with the Statutes.

The amendment comes into force as soon as it is adopted by the oGA.

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