

RECOGNISED SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1 *NAME: The name of the organisation referred to in this constitution shall be:*

ecco at the University of London Union

2 *OBJECTS: The objects of the organisation shall be:*

- *As a subsidiary of ecco International (www.ecco.st), a not-for-profit and politically independent international student association, ecco at the University of London Union (from now on: ecco London) aims at educating London students and the public in general about the environmental, social, economical, cultural and political aspects of Sustainable Development (SD). This effectively implements chapter 36 of Agenda 21 which is integral part of the outcome of the 1992 UN Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro.*
- *To achieve this general goal, we will bring together and educate future decision makers about sustainability and direct their attention towards all aspects of SD. ecco London encourages its members to apply their newly-gained knowledge in concrete, hands-on projects in the Greater London area. ecco London members will work as capacity builders among students and the broader public, turning them into multipliers for the idea of SD.*
- *Furthermore, building on the established network of 17 local ecco groups in 15 countries, we aim at bridging the knowledge divide between developing and industrialised countries. This will be done by sharing information, like project reports and theoretical papers (e.g. lectures), relevant to other ecco groups using the ecco International website and mailing lists.*
- *From London, we want to strengthen the existing ecco network around the world. We intend not only to disseminate locally gathered knowledge and ideas among ecco groups worldwide, but also to broaden ecco London members' horizon through exposure to insights from ecco groups in other countries.*
- *ecco London will shape the future by making ecco's ideas internationally known and aims at being internationally recognized as the leading student organisation in its field.*
- *ecco international is an international student organization for sustainable development, founded in 2000 by students from the University of Hohenheim, Germany with the aim of enhancing the awareness and consciousness of the environmental issues and the importance of sustainable development to maintain our future generations living on this planet. This organization was created to enable youth to be part of the construction of a sustainable world as claimed by the chapter 25th of the Agenda 21 of the World Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.*

3 **MEMBERSHIP:**

- (a) *There shall be three categories of membership: Ordinary, Associate and Honorary membership.*
- (b) *Ordinary membership shall be restricted to members of the University of London Union, hereinafter referred to as "The Union", as defined in clause 3.2 of the Union Constitution, and shall be open to all such members.*
- (c) *Associate membership shall be open only to those members of affiliated organisations in Incorporated Schools, Colleges and Institutes of the University with Recognised Teachers who are not eligible for ordinary membership.*
- (d) *The General Meeting may elect to Honorary Membership for life or for a specified period of time:*
 - (i) *Not more than 5 distinguished persons.*
 - (ii) *Persons whose services the General Meeting considers essential to the fulfilment of its objects.*
 - (iii) *Persons who have been of outstanding service in the fulfilment of these objects.*
- (e) *Associate and Honorary membership shall in no way confer any of the privileges of membership of the Union on the recipient, save that those Honorary members elected under category (ii) may, provided such election has been ratified by the Sports & Societies Council of the Union, be permitted to use the facilities of the Union in furthering the objects for the fulfilment of which they are considered essential.*

4 **COMMITTEE:**

- (a) *Administration shall be vested in a Committee, which shall have a Chairperson. The Committee shall, each academic year prescribe a date, before 21 March, when all its members shall retire and be replaced by a new set of committee members, all of whom shall have been elected by a General Meeting; such new set of committee may consist of or contain any one or more of the retiring committee members.*
- (b) *All members of the Committee may be required to resign by the General Meeting.*

5 **GENERAL MEETINGS:**

- (a) *General Meetings, which all members may attend but at which only those members in Clause 3(b) may vote, shall be the governing body, and may alter or reverse any decision by the Committee.*
- (b) *General Meetings shall be held within 20 days of the receipt by the Chairperson of the Committee of a written request for such a meeting, specifying the reason for which the meeting is to be held, such written request to be signed by not less than one-third of all members under Clause 3(b).*
- (c) *General Meetings may be held additionally at the discretion of the Committee or the Chairperson of the Committee acting on its behalf.*
- (d) *At least one General Meeting shall be held each academic session between 1 October and 31 March inclusive.*
- (e) *The Committee shall be responsible for giving suitable notice to the members of any General Meeting at least one week before it is to be held.*
- (f) *Minutes of all General Meetings shall be kept by the committee.*

6 **FINANCE:**

- (a) *No public appeal for funds may be launched without the express permission of the Council of the University of London. Applications for such permission must be made through the Sports and Societies Council of the Union, who, if they approve, shall endorse the application and forward it to the Council of the University.*
- (b) *Financial Standing Orders as laid down by the Sports and Societies Council shall be adhered to.*
- (c) *Any debts incurred shall be the sole responsibility of the Committee at the time at which the debt was incurred.*

7 **REPORTS:**

The Committee shall submit to the Union before the 1 April in each calendar year its annual report together with a list of officers for the next academic year. The Committee shall, on request from the Sports and Societies Council Executive, present a report of activities to the Sports and Societies Council.

8 **AFFILIATION:**

Affiliation shall not be made to any body not connected with the University of London without permission having first been obtained from the Sports and Societies Council Executive of the Union.

9 **REGULATIONS:**

Further regulations shall be contained in resolutions or decisions of the General Meeting or the Committee. No regulation shall be valid if it contradicts in whole or in part this Constitution, the Constitution of the Union or regulations laid down by the Council of the University or the Sports and Societies Council Executive of the Union. No regulation formulated by the Committee shall be valid if it contradicts in whole or in part a regulation formulated less than one year previously by a General Meeting.

10 **AMENDMENTS:**

This Constitution may be amended by a General Meeting at which at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, vote in favour of the proposed amendment. No change shall take effect unless and until it has been reported to and approved by the Sports and Societies Council Executive of the Union.

11 **INTERPRETATION:**

All questions of interpretation of this Constitution shall be referred to the Sports and Societies Council Executive of the Union.

SIGNED:

(CHAIRPERSON)

(TREASURER)

(SECRETARY)
