

**International Movement ATD Fourth World
107, Avenue du Général Leclerc
95480 PIERRELAYE - France**

**BY-LAWS
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT
ATD FOURTH WORLD
AS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
APRIL 2009**

International Movement ATD Fourth World:

- Association constituted on November 22nd, 1974
- Publication in the Official Bulletin (*Journal Officiel*) December 3rd, 1974
- Registered at the Prefecture of Pontoise (France), no. 09404

November 22nd, 1974, BETWEEN:

1. The Association *MOUVEMENT ATD QUART MONDE*, Registered Office in Paris, France;
2. The Foundation *ATD Quart Monde*, Registered Office in Paris, France;
3. The Association *NEW INC. FOURTH WORLD MOVEMENT*, Registered Office in New York, USA;
4. The Association *MOUVEMENT ATD QUART MONDE asbl*, Registered Office in Brussels, Belgium;
5. The Foundation *STICHTING ATD VIERDE WERELD NEDERLAND*, Registered Office in the Hague, Netherlands;
6. The Association *Mouvement SUISSE d'ATD Quart Monde*, Registered Office in Treyvaux, Switzerland;

An international organization is hereby constituted in accordance with the law [of France] established on July 1, 1901.

It is named: MOUVEMENT INTERNATIONAL ATD QUART MONDE ⁽¹⁾

- In English: International Movement ATD Fourth World
- In Spanish: Movimiento Internacional ATD Cuarto Mundo

The present by-laws govern this Association.

¹ ATD: All Together for Dignity. *Aide à toute détresse*, [Help to All in Distress], was one of the first names given to the association founded in 1957 by Fr. Joseph Wresinski, together with the families of the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France) and others pledging solidarity to them.

PURPOSE AND COMPOSITION

Holding that:

“Each person carries in her or himself a fundamental and inalienable value of human dignity. Whatever this person's way of living, thinking, social position or economic means, ethical or racial origin, each person retains this essential value intact. This value unequivocally establishes equality among all people. It gives to each person the same inalienable right to act freely for one’s own good and the good of others.”

(Excerpt from the principles and objectives of the Movement ATD Fourth World)

And that:

“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty,
human rights are violated.

To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.”

(Fr. Joseph Wresinski, October 17, 1987)

ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVE

The International Movement ATD Fourth World assembles individuals, families, and groups of people living in deep poverty who are determined to overcome this injustice. The Movement engages men and women of all origins and countries who share this determination. Together, they are given the name “Fourth World.” The International Movement ATD Fourth World acts for the advancement of a society where the equal dignity of each human being can be recognized, and where extreme poverty and social exclusion will be banished.

The united efforts of the Association are deep-rooted in the thought, action, and spirituality of its founder, Fr. Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988).

From this perspective, the Movement gives priority to the people living in the worst situations of poverty.

The Movement is an independent and non-profit organization. Without political or religious affiliations, it respects diverse identities as well as philosophical, political, or religious convictions. Its principle is to work respectfully in close association with the concerned public authorities of each host country.

ARTICLE 2: PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

To reach its purpose, the Movement:

- a) unites national associations and foundations of ATD Fourth World, in order to develop their cooperation in implementing their common project of a new society. Each national association contributes to the implementation of the Movement's objectives in the world, according to its means;
- b) encourages the creation of national, regional, or local organizations of ATD Fourth World or Friends of the Movement ATD Fourth World that pursue these same objectives;
- c) represents, especially at the international level, the interests and hopes of the most disadvantaged people, families and groups, in order that their voices be heard in every place where decisions are made – decisions that concern their future and the future of humanity – and that these people be recognized as partners;
- d) develops the message of the Movement's founder, Fr. Joseph Wresinski, and makes known this message throughout the world;
- e) creates or encourages the establishment of ad hoc structures at the international level, and supports, in particular, the teams of ATD Fourth World volunteers;
- f) calls upon men and women, of all generations and of all social, cultural, religious or philosophical backgrounds, to voluntarily engage themselves in serving populations living in extreme poverty in all parts of the world, notably, by joining the Volunteer Corps of International Movement ATD Fourth World;
- g) encourages the regular evaluation of the Movement's Common Ambitions with reference to the worst situations of poverty;
- h) develops friendships, relationships and fosters mutual support among different groups of people throughout the world – in particular, with the smallest and most isolated of these groups – that attempt to be engaged with the most excluded populations;
- i) invites the general public to learn more about the living conditions and the daily efforts of the people living in extreme poverty, using means such as editing and distributing publications, organizing campaigns, and through the annual "World Day for Overcoming Poverty" each October 17;
- j) undertakes and encourages studies, investigation and research in accordance with the objectives of the Association;

- k) collaborates, in the most appropriate way, with national and international institutions and bodies that are able to facilitate or contribute to the realization of the Movement's objectives. And, in general, encourages various organizations, within their respective capacities, to recognize the victims of extreme poverty, and to act together in order to transform this state of extreme poverty;
- l) does all that will be useful and necessary in order to accomplish the Movement's objectives.

ARTICLE 3: HEADQUARTERS

The Registered Office of the Association is located in Pierrelaye, Val d'Oise, France, 107 Avenue du Général Leclerc. It may be relocated by a decision of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4: TERM

The Association's period of operation is unlimited.

ARTICLE 5: COMPOSITION

The Association is comprised of:

1. founding member associations: the six associations listed on page 2 of this document;
2. active member associations: national associations and foundations of *Aide à Toute Détresse* or *ATD Quart Monde* that are recognized by the Board of Directors as active member associations;
3. associated members: associations of "*Amis du Mouvement ATD Quart Monde*," or other associations, or supporting foundations that are recognized by the Board of Directors as associated members;
4. individual members, recognized as such by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is acquired following the decision of the Board of Directors, according to the clauses defined in the Rules of Procedure of the Association.

ARTICLE 7: RESIGNATION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The process of resignation or termination of membership is defined in the Rules

of Procedure.

Whatever the reasons for the membership termination, the member organizations of the Association must cease using the names *Aide à Toute Détresse*, ATD, ATD Fourth World, or Fourth World as they are no longer members of the Association and therefore must change their name.

ARTICLE 8: FINANCIAL AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the Association are never individually liable for the contracted obligations of the Association. Such obligations are met only by the property and assets of the Association.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is not responsible for the legal, financial, or other decisions or actions of any of its members.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY or CONGRESS

ARTICLE 9: GENERAL ASSEMBLY or CONGRESS

1° Composition

All members of the Association participate in the General Assembly.

The legal entities are represented by one or two persons fulfilling these offices, chosen among the most committed of its members.

At the request of the President or the Director General, additional persons whose commitment or specific experience contribute to the construction of the Movement may be invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly.

Only the following members have voting rights: the founding organizations and the active member organizations.

Legal entities represented by two individuals may have no more than one vote.

The other members are present in an advisory (but non-voting) capacity.

The General Assembly is convened by the President or the Director General, as delegated by the Board of Directors, through a letter of invitation posted at least 30 days prior to the session. The letter of invitation specifies the date and place of the meeting as well as the agenda fixed by the Board of Directors.

The rules of procedure will specify and finalize the different operational policies of the General Assembly.

2° Regular General Assembly

The Regular General Assembly meets every year at the date and time it decides, and is convened by the President or the Director General.

The annual report and financial report (balance sheet, annual accounts and appendices) are presented at the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors gives a report of the financial management of the Association to be approved by the General Assembly.

At the General Assembly, the Association and each of its member associations assess and further their understanding of the way in which they maintain the guiding principle of priority of and commitment to the poorest in the Association's policy.

The General Assembly is charged with the management of the Board, as well as encouraging it, and making all decisions regarding the direction of the Association. Generally, the Assembly is also responsible for addressing all submitted resolutions.

The Assembly proceeds to the election of the Office of the Director General and administers the elections of the members of the Office to the Board.

The Assembly elects all members to the Board according to article 11.1.

The regular session of the General Assembly may proceed its deliberations regardless of the number of members present.

Decisions are made by a majority of vote by those entitled to vote.

3° The Special Session of the General Assembly

The Special Session of the General Assembly may exercise the right to make modifications to the current statutes, to dissolve the Association and transfer its assets, and to merge or transform the Association.

The Special Session of the General Assembly can not proceed with its deliberations if less than half of its members are present or represented.

If a quorum is not achieved at the first meeting, the General Assembly may reconvene within 30 days and with the same agenda. At this reconvening, the Assembly may then proceed regardless of the number of members present.

Decisions are made by the majority vote, defined as two thirds of those entitled to vote.

ARTICLE 10: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Office of the Director General, comprised of the Director General and his associates, is chosen by the discernment process overseen by the International Volunteer Corps ATD Fourth World.

The General Assembly places its confidence in the Office of Director General and elects its members to the Board of Directors.

Should there be a change in the composition of the Office of Director General between meetings of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors may ratify such a change by a vote of confidence that will be reconfirmed during the following session of the General Assembly.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

ARTICLE 11: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1° Composition

In order to best reflect the presence of the Movement in various countries and regions of the world, the Board of Directors consists of eleven to twenty seven members, including:

1. the members of the Office of the Director General, elected according to the conditions set in Article 10,
2. the other members elected by the General Assembly, a maximum of 18 people,
 - 12 Board members are elected by nomination of member organizations (founding or active), after an accord has been reached among these organizations.
 - 6 Board members are elected by recommendation of the Director General.
3. the Board members appointed by the Board of Directors, a maximum of 6 people.

At any time, the Board of Directors may deem it necessary to appoint additional members, based on their commitment, aptitude and experience, which may or may not belong to a member organization.

The term of office as a Board member is six years.

Half of the Board of Directors is recomposed every three years, which applies to both elected and appointed members. During the first of these transitions, the exiting members are chosen at random.

When there are vacancies on the Board, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, may temporarily appoint new persons to fill these vacancies. Definitive replacements are confirmed during the following General Assembly. Terms of office for such elected Board members will end as designated for the original members they are replacing.

Even if the General Assembly does not confirm a replacement of the Board's members, the decisions made and acts accomplished by the Board will be no less valid.

Duties of a Board member are terminated upon his or her dismissal, withdrawal from the Association, or death, the dissolution of the member association or any other cause of importance.

A member may serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. An exception to this rule may be made at the initiative of the Board of Directors.

Upon agreement of the President or Director General, member organizations that do not have a representative on the Board may send an individual, chosen among the most committed of its members, to participate in the work of the Board, with consultative status.

2° Modes of Operation of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets at least once a year and is convened by the President or the Director General.

The Movement's Rules of Procedure describe the process of electing members to the Board of Directors, as well as the rules of operation.

ARTICLE 12: POWERS and RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors supervises the execution of decisions made by the General Assembly, and takes all measures necessary to assure the proper management of the Association.

The Board of Directors is responsible for management, operations, and the making of provisions for the Movement. As an executive body, the Board administers annual elections of its Office.

The Board supervises the activities of the Office of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 13: OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Office is the legal representative of the Board of Directors.

The Office is composed of:

- the President of the Board of Directors,
- possibly, one or several Vice Presidents appointed by the Board of Directors,
- the Director General who holds the powers conferred to him by the Board of Directors.
- a Treasurer, and possibly a Deputy Treasurer, who manages the finances and assets of the Association under supervision of the Board of Directors.

The Office of the Board of Directors may choose an Executive Secretary by recommendation of the Director General. The Secretary participates in the work of the Board of Directors without voting rights. The Board of Directors defines his rights and responsibilities.

The President or the Director General convenes the Office, as often as necessary for the proper running of the Association.

ARTICLE 14: EXECUTIVE BODIES

The Association may create an executive body, if deemed necessary, in order to realize the objectives of the Association, and specifically, in order to represent the Association in the United Nations systems or in other inter-governmental, international, or regional organizations. In general, an executive body is established by the Board of Directors who, by simple decision, designates the location and make-up of such a body. This executive body may consist of members of the Board, as well as one or several local representatives appointed for renewable terms of three years.

Specifically, such a body is established in Etterbeek, Belgium, 12 Av. Victor Jacobs.

ENDOWMENT and ANNUAL INCOME

ARTICLE 15: INCOME

The income of the Association consists of:

- membership dues;
- government funding, and funding from national, international, public and private institutions;
- income from assets;
- sums received for services rendered by the Association;
- all other legally authorized resources.

ARTICLE 16: ENDOWMENTS

Endowments consist of:

1. property necessary to the operation of the Association;
2. capital incurred by savings from the annual budget, as well as, part of the surplus resources that is neither designated for endowment nor necessary to the operation of the Association for the first half of the following year. The quantity and the make-up of the endowment may be changed by decision of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 17: ACCOUNTING

Daily accounts are kept of interest accrued, funds received and expenditures.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS and DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE 18: BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be modified only by request of the Board of Directors that has been submitted for approval to a Special Session of the General Assembly.

Proposed modifications to the By-Laws should be mailed to all members of the General Assembly at least three months prior to the date of its convention.

Any modifications to the By-Laws may only serve to compliment and develop, without altering, the social objective of the Association, as defined in Article 1 of the present By-Laws. Modifications may also be made to the language of the texts, conforming to the natural evolution of the spoken language, without altering the principles defined in this article.

ARTICLE 19: DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Association can only take place by a decision of the Special Session of the General Assembly.

In case of dissolution, the assets of the Association will be transferred to the foundation *ATD Quart Monde*, headquartered in Paris (France).

ARTICLE 20: RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Board of Directors constructs Rules of Procedure that specify the process of implementation of the present By-Laws. They are ratified by the General Assembly.

Approved by the General Assembly, April 2009.

Christina Lim-Yuson
President

Eugen Brand
Director General