

**International Movement ATD Fourth World**

**12 rue Pasteur**

**95480 PIERRELAYE – France**

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT**  
**ATD FOURTH WORLD**

By-Laws amended by the General Assembly on:

- January 18, 2002: nomination and role of the International Leadership Team;
- April 29, 2009: change of the meaning of the ATD acronym;
- May 14, 2012: change in the address of the head office;
- December 5, 2017: a new principle of action was added;
- December 4, 2020: creation of committees and roles played by members of the Executive Committee
- June 19, 2024: appointment of the International Leadership Team

Association founded on November 22, 1974

Publication in the *Journal Officiel* (France) on December 3, 1974

Registration number at the Prefecture of Val d'Oise (France): W95 3001514



On November 22, 1974, between:

1. The Association *MOUVEMENT ATD QUART MONDE*, Registered Office in Montreuil, France;
2. The Foundation *ATD QUART MONDE*, Registered Office in Montreuil, France;
3. The Association *ATD 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 ATD QUART MONDE*, Registered Office in Treyvaux, Switzerland;

an international organization is hereby constituted in accordance with the French law of July 1, 1901.

It is named: MOUVEMENT INTERNATIONAL ATD<sup>1</sup> QUART MONDE

- In English: International Movement ATD<sup>2</sup> Fourth World
- In Spanish: Movimiento Internacional ATD<sup>3</sup> Cuarto Mundo

The present By-Laws govern this Association.

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1. ATD: *Agir Tous pour la Dignité*  
"Agir Tous pour la Dignité" (Acting Together for Dignity) replaces "*Aide à toute détresse*" (Help to All in Distress) which was one of the first names given to the association founded in 1957 by Father Joseph Wresinski, together with the families of the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France) and their friends.
  2. ATD: All Together in Dignity
  3. ATD: Actuar Todos por la Dignidad



## PURPOSE AND COMPOSITION

Whereas:

“All people carry in themselves a fundamental and inalienable value of human dignity. Whatever their way of living, thinking, social position or economic means, ethnic 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 their own good and the good of others.”

(From the principles and objectives of the International Movement ATD Fourth World)  
and whereas:

“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.”

(Father Joseph Wresinski, October 17, 1987);

### ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVE

The International Movement ATD Fourth World brings together individuals, families, and groups of people who refuse the fate of extreme poverty in which they are condemned to live. The Association engages men and women from all origins and all countries who share in this refusal. 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, Father Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988).

From this perspective, the Association gives priority to people living in extreme poverty.

The Association is an independent 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 fulfil its purpose, the Association:

- 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 according to its means to the realization of the Association's objectives in the world;
- b) encourages the creation of national, regional, or local organizations of ATD Fourth World or Friends of the ATD Fourth World Movement in pursuing 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 that concern their future and the future of humanity and in order that they be recognized as partners;
- d) develops the message of the Association's founder, Father Joseph Wresinski, and propagates this message throughout the world;
- e) supports ATD Fourth World teams (especially in countries with no ATD Fourth World national organization) by providing them with human, administrative, and financial resources, in particular by sending and supporting volunteers on mission in these countries;
- f) creates or encourages the establishment of ad hoc structures, executive bodies, and committees at the international level;
- g) calls upon men and women, of all generations and of all social, cultural, religious or philosophical backgrounds, to voluntarily engage themselves in serving populations in deepest poverty in all parts of the world, and especially to join ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps teams supported by the Association;
- h) encourages the regular evaluation of the commitments of the Association and its members to people living in extreme poverty;
- i) develops relationships of friendship, knowledge, and 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;
- j) encourages the general public to learn more about the living conditions and daily efforts of people living in extreme poverty, using means such as editing and distributing publications, organizing campaigns, and promoting the annual World Day for Overcoming Poverty;
- k) undertakes and encourages studies, investigations, and research in accordance with the objectives of the Association;
- l) 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 Association's objectives. And, in general, encourages various organizations, within their respective capacities, to take into account the victims of extreme poverty, and to act together in order to transform this state of extreme poverty;
- m) does all that will be useful and necessary in order to accomplish the Association's objectives.

### **ARTICLE 3: HEADQUARTERS**

The Registered Office of the Association is located at 12 rue Pasteur in Pierrelaye, Val d'Oise, France. 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 comprises:

1. founding member associations: the six associations listed on page 2 of this document;
2. active member associations: national associations and foundations of ATD Fourth World that are recognized by the Board of Directors as active member associations;
3. associated members: associations of "Friends of the ATD Fourth World Movement", 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 a 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 ATD, ATD Fourth World, or Fourth World as soon as they are no longer members of the Association and 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 ANNUAL MEETING**


### **ARTICLE 9: GENERAL ASSEMBLY or ANNUAL MEETING**

#### **1. Composition**

All members of the Association participate in the General Assembly.

The legal entities are represented by one or two duly authorized individuals, chosen from among the most committed of their members.

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





Only the following members have voting rights: the founding organizations, the active member organizations, the members of the Board of Directors, and individual members.

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

Associate 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.

One of 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 once a 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 notes) 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 people living in extreme poverty.

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.

It shall elect the International Leadership Team, based on proposals from the Naming Group.

The General Assembly elects all members to the Board according to Article 11.1 of these By-Laws.

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

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

## **3. Special Session of the General Assembly**

A special session of the General Assembly may exercise the right to make modifications to the current By-Laws, to dissolve the Association and transfer its assets, or to merge or transform the Association.

A special session of General Assembly cannot proceed with its deliberations if fewer than half of its members are present or represented.

If a quorum is not achieved at the first meeting, the special session 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: INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The International Leadership Team, comprising the Director General and his or her associates, is chosen by a discernment process as set out in this article and further detailed in the internal regulations.

##### **1. International Leadership Team Renewal Process Steering Group**

A group, named the International Leadership Team Renewal Process Steering Group (known hereafter as the Steering Group), representative of Movement members whether they are volunteer corps members, allies and activists, is created in order to bear the long-term responsibility for the naming and renewal of the International Leadership Team. It ensures the process is adapted to the Movement's evolution and to make it more transparent and participatory. The Steering Group has among its responsibilities to create a group entitled the "Naming Group".

The members of the Steering Group hold a four-year term, renewable once. Every four year, on the occasion of the renewal of the Steering Group, between two and four of its members, as chosen by members of the Steering Group, continue for a second term.

The method by which the Steering Group is composed and assembled, as well as its powers and remit are detailed and outlined in the internal rules and procedures.

##### **2. Naming Group**

In order to name the members of the International Leadership Team at the end of the previous International Leadership Team's term of office, or in the case of the replacement of one of its members from its post, under the conditions set out in paragraph three below, a group entitled the « Naming Group » is created by the Steering Group.

The method by which the Naming Group is composed and assembled, as well as its powers and remit are detailed and outlined in the internal regulations.

##### **3. International Leadership Team: Composition – Powers – Remit**

International Leadership Team members are elected by the General Assembly, based on proposals from the Naming Group, for a four-year term, renewable once. Under exceptional circumstances, a member of the International Leadership Team may be appointed for a third consecutive term.

In the event of one or more vacancies on the International Leadership Team, due to a death, or a resignation, the Board may (i) ask the Steering Group to reconvene the Naming Group which proposed the name(s) of the member(s) whose post(s) has/have become vacant and (ii) fill provisionally the vacant post(s) by coopting those proposed by the reconvened Naming Group. All members of the International Leadership Team coopted in this way will only remain in post for the





remaining term of office of the replaced member, The appointment of the International Leadership Team member by the Board will be ratified at the next General Meeting. While awaiting ratification, the decision taken and actions undertaken by the member are in no way less valid.

If the Board becomes aware of any impediment on the part of the International Leadership Team, the Board reconvenes the Naming Group which proposed the names of the International Leadership Team impeded and the reconvened Naming Group proposes a new International Leadership Team.

The powers and remit of the International Leadership Team are set out in article 7 of the internal rules and procedures.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION**

### **ARTICLE 11: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **1. Composition**

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

1. members of the International Leadership Team, elected according to the conditions set in Article 10 of these By-Laws;
2. other members elected by the General Assembly, a maximum of 18 people:
  - 5 to 12 members are elected by nomination of member organizations (founding or active), after a consensus has been reached among these organizations.
  - 2 to 6 members are elected by recommendation of the Director General.
3. members appointed by the Board of Directors, from 2 to 6 members at the most.  
At any time, the Board of Directors may deem it necessary to appoint additional members, based on their commitment, aptitude, and experience, and they may or may not belong to a member organization.

The term of office as a member of the Board of Directors 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 may, at its discretion, 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 at the time 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, death, 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 of Directors may send a duly authorized individual, chosen from among the most committed of its members, to participate with consultative status in the work of the Board.

## **2. 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 Association'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 Association. As an executive body, the Board elects its own Executive Committee. The Board supervises the activities of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 13: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee has the power to legally represent the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee is composed of:

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

The powers and responsibilities of the members of the Board of Directors are defined in Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Executive Committee may choose an Executive Secretary by recommendation of the Director General. The Secretary participates as a guest member in the work of the Executive Committee, without voting rights. The Board defines the Secretary's responsibilities.

The President or the Director General convenes the Executive Committee 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 which, by simple decision, designates the location and make-up of such a body. This executive body may consist of at least one member of the Executive Committee as an ex-officio member, as well as one or several local representatives appointed for renewable terms of three years.

As an example, such a body was established at 12 Av. Victor Jacobs in Etterbeek, Belgium.

#### **ARTICLE 15: COMMITTEES**

To ensure fidelity to the objectives of the Association, it can create committees which advise the Association on a specific dimension, ethics in particular. They can be referred to by the Director General or they can act on their own and they give advice to the Director General. Generally, a committee is created by the Director General after consulting the Board of Directors. The roles and responsibilities of each committee are listed in Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure.

### **FUNDS and ANNUAL INCOME**

#### **ARTICLE 16: INCOME**

The income of the Association consists of:

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

#### **ARTICLE 17: RESERVE FUNDS**

Reserve Funds consist of:

1. properties necessary for the operation of the Association;
2. capital realized by savings from the annual budget, as well as the part of the surplus resources that is neither designated for specific funds nor necessary to the operation of the Association for the first half of the following fiscal year. The quantity and the make-up of the reserve funds may be changed by decision of the Board of Directors.
3. all documents (writings, photographs, recordings, etc.) archived at the Joseph Wresinski Centre and in all locations of the ATD Fourth World Movement where they are kept, whatever the medium (physical or digital) and the date.

#### **ARTICLE 18: ACCOUNTING**

Daily accounting is undertaken for cash, income, and expenditures consistent with the latest regulatory provisions of *Autorité des Normes Comptables* or ANC, France's national accounting standards body (ANC regulations 2014-03, ANC 2018-06, and others).





## **AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS and DISSOLUTION**

### **ARTICLE 19: 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.

Unless the modification is solely to conform to a possible evolution of the current use of language but remains faithful to the principles defined in the article, a modification to the four paragraphs of Article 1 of these By-Laws on the objectives of the Association can only be decided unanimously by the General Assembly and on the unanimous proposal of the Board of Directors. However, an addendum to the said Article 1 of the By-Laws which would extend or complete but not restrain the Association's objectives, will be decided by the majority required for special sessions of the General Assembly.

### **ARTICLE 20: DISSOLUTION**

The dissolution of the Association can only take place by a decision of a special session of the General Assembly.

In case of dissolution, the assets of the Association will be transferred to the *Fondation ATD Quart Monde*, with registered office in Montreuil (France).

### **ARTICLE 21: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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

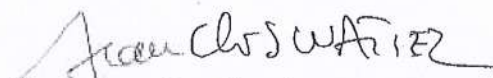
Approved by the Extraordinary General Meeting of June 19, 2024

Bruno Dabout



Director General

Jean-Charles Watiez



Executive Secretary

