



# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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**WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM, INC.**

A Nonprofit Nonstock Corporationn Operating as a 501(c)(3)  
Public Charity, Viginia, USA



Visit us @ [www.worldagricultureforum.org](http://www.worldagricultureforum.org) |     ( World Agriculture Forum )

## PREAMBLE

- ☑ The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) is established as a global platform dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture, strengthening resilient food systems, and improving the prosperity of farmers and rural communities worldwide.
- ☑ Agriculture today faces unprecedented global challenges including climate change, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, supply chain disruptions, food insecurity, and rapidly evolving technological transformations. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated international collaboration among governments, farmers, agribusinesses, research institutions, financial organizations, and civil society.
- ☑ The World Agriculture Forum exists to provide thought leadership and set policy agenda for agriculture, promote knowledge exchange, encourage responsible investment in agriculture, facilitate technology adoption, strengthen agricultural value chains, and advance global dialogue on sustainable food systems.
- ☑ Through international cooperation, innovation, and policy engagement, the Forum seeks to build a more inclusive and resilient agricultural ecosystem capable of feeding the world while preserving natural resources.
- ☑ This Constitution and Bylaws establish the mission, governance structure, institutional principles, and operational framework of the World Agriculture Forum.

## PART I - CONSTITUTION

### Article 1 - Name

- ☑ The name of the organization shall be World Agriculture Forum, Inc., hereinafter referred to as "WAF" or "the Forum."

### Article 2 - Legal Status

- ☑ WAF is a nonprofit nonstock corporation incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States of America.
- ☑ The organization operates exclusively for charitable, educational, development and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- ☑ WAF shall operate as a nonprofit, nonpolitical, and nonreligious global institution.
- ☑ The organization may establish offices, chapters, affiliated entities, or partnerships in any country where such presence supports the mission of the Forum.

### Article 3 - Vision

The vision of the World Agriculture Forum is:

To create a globally connected and locally empowered agricultural ecosystem that promotes sustainable farming, resilient food systems, and inclusive economic growth for farmers and agribusinesses worldwide.

### Article 4 - Mission

The mission of WAF is to strengthen the global agricultural ecosystem by: The mission of WAF is to strengthen the global agricultural ecosystem by:

- Promoting sustainable agricultural development
- Facilitating international policy dialogue
- Supporting innovation and technology adoption
- Strengthening agribusiness and rural entrepreneurship
- Mobilizing investments in agriculture
- Improving farmer livelihoods and value chains

## **Article 5 - Objectives**

To achieve its mission, WAF shall pursue the following objectives:

1. Facilitate dialogue among governments, farmers, agribusinesses, development institutions, academia, and civil society.
2. Promote global knowledge exchange and dissemination of agricultural best practices.
3. Organize international summits, policy dialogues, and conferences.
4. Support research initiatives and publications addressing food systems transformation.
5. Encourage investments in agriculture and agribusiness.
6. Strengthen agricultural entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems.
7. Support farmer training and capacity-building initiatives.
8. Facilitate public-private partnerships for agricultural development.
9. Promote climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable natural resource management.
10. Support international collaboration to address food security challenges.

## **Article 6 - Nonprofit Nature**

- The organization shall operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.
- No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual except as reasonable compensation for services rendered.
- The organization shall not participate in political campaigns or partisan activities.
- The organization shall comply with all applicable laws governing nonprofit organizations and public charities.

## **Article 7 - Founder Guardian Principle**

The World Agriculture Forum recognizes the unique role of its founders in establishing, nurturing, and advancing the organization.

**The founding leaders are:**

- Dr. Daman Singh Walia** - Co-Founder and Founding Chairman
- Dr. Mohammad Jalis Khan** - Co-Founder and Founding Executive Director

**The Founder-Guardian principle ensures:**

- Preservation of the founding vision
- Institutional continuity
- Strategic stability during growth

The founders shall serve as custodians of the mission and values of the organization.

## PART II - GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

### Article 8 - Offices

- The principal office of WAF shall be located in the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States.
- Additional offices may be established globally by resolution of the Board of Directors.
- International regional offices may be created to facilitate global operations.

### Article 9 - Governance Structure

The governance framework of WAF shall consists of:

1. Board of Directors
2. Board of Trustees
3. Executive Leadership and Secretariat
4. Global Councils and Working Groups
5. Regional Councils
6. Country Councils

Each body plays a distinct role in advancing the mission of the organization.

## PART III - BOARD GOVERNANCE

### Article 10 - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the statutory governing body of the organization.

#### Composition

The Board shall consist of three to fifteen (3-15) Directors, including:

- Founding Directors
- Independent Directors.

#### Responsibilities

The Board shall:

- Provide fiduciary oversight
- Approve strategic plans
- Approve budgets and financial reports
- Appoint and evaluate the Executive Director
- Safeguard the assets and reputation of the organization
- Ensure legal and regulatory compliance

### Article 10 A - Board Meetings

- The Board shall meet at least once annually.
- Additional meetings may be convened as necessary.
- Meetings may be conducted in person or through electronic communication.
- A majority of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

## **11. Directors Appointment and Removal**

Terms for Appointment, Re-nomination/Extension, and Removal of Directors

### **Appointment of Directors**

- 11.1 Directors of WAF shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the submission of the names shortlisted by the Secretary of the Board in consultation with the Executive Director, WAF and the Chair of the Board
- 11.2 The appointment shall be based on the following considerations:
- Demonstrated leadership and experience in agriculture, food systems, technology and business
  - Ability to contribute to strategic direction, governance, and international partnerships.
  - Integrity, reputation, and absence of any conflict of interest detrimental to WAF.
- 11.3 Appointment shall be confirmed through a formal Board Resolution and communicated through a letter of appointment specifying the term and responsibilities.
- 11.4 Term of Office
- 11.5 A Director shall normally be appointed for a term of two (2) years, renewable.
- 11.6 The term shall commence from the date of appointment approved by the Board.
- 11.7 Re-nomination/Extension of Term
- 11.8 A Director may be re-nominated for one or more additional term subject to satisfactory performance and continued relevance to the objectives of WAF.
- 11.9 Re-nomination shall be processed by the Secretary of the Board in consultation with the Executive Director, WAF and the Chair of the Board, and approved by the Board of Directors.

### **12.0 Any extension or re-appointment must be approved through a formal Board Resolution.**

#### 12.1. Roles and Responsibilities of Directors

Directors shall:

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight for the organization.
- Support global partnerships, advocacy, and program development.
- Uphold the governance standards, policies, and ethical values of WAF.
- Participate actively in Board meetings and committees.
- Act as ambassadors of WAF and help raise resources.

#### 12.2. Resignation

12.3 A Director may resign by submitting a written notice to the Chairperson or Board Secretary.

12.4 The resignation shall take effect:

- On the date specified in the notice, or
- Upon acceptance by the Board.

#### 12.5. Removal of Directors

A Director may be removed by the Board under the following circumstances:

12.6 Failure to perform duties or persistent non-participation in Board activities.

12.7 Violation of governance policies, ethical standards, or conflict-of-interest rules.

12.8 Conduct that may damage the reputation, credibility, or interests of WAF.

12.9 Absence from three consecutive Board meetings without valid reason.

13.0 Removal by the decision of the two third of the Board of Directors recorded through a formal resolution.

## PART IV - EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

### Article 14 - FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Mohammad Jalis Khan shall serve as Founding Executive Director of the World Agriculture Forum

#### Responsibilities

The Founding Executive Director shall:

- Lead global development of WAF
- Implement strategic initiatives
- Oversee the Secretariat
- Represent the organization internationally
- Develop partnerships and fundraising initiatives

#### Tenure

To ensure institutional continuity, the Founding Executive Director shall serve without fixed term, subject to performance and fiduciary responsibilities, and as per WAF constitution, and its applicable rules.

#### Removal

Removal of the Founding Executive Director shall require :

A two third of the majority vote of the Board of Directors, and ratification by a two third majority of the Board of Trustees

Removal may occur only in cases of:

- serious misconduct
- violation of law
- breach of fiduciary duty

### Article 15 - Secretariat

The Secretariat shall function as the operational arm of WAF.

It shall manage:

- programs and projects
- Communications and outreach
- Partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Research and publications
- Events Management
- Financial Administration.

All Secretariat staff report to the Executive Director.

## PART V - GLOBAL ADVISORY STRUCTURE

### Article 16 - Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall serve as a global advisory and strategic body.

#### Composition

The Board may include up to 25 distinguished international leaders.

#### Responsibilities

Trustees shall:

- provide strategic guidance
- serve as ambassadors for WAF
- Support partnerships and fundraising
- promote the mission globally

The Board of Trustees shall not exercise statutory authority.

### Article 17 - Global Councils

WAF may establish specialized councils, addressing key agricultural themes, including:

- Food security
- Agricultural innovation
- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Digital Agriculture
- Agribusiness Investment
- Trade and Markets
- Nutrition and Health

### Article 18 - Working Groups

- Working Groups or subject committees may be established to address specific policy, trade, business or research areas.
- These groups shall develop recommendations, research outputs, and policy dialogue initiatives.

### Article 19 - Regional Councils

Regional Councils may coordinate WAF initiatives across geographic regions.

Their responsibilities include:

- Regional Coordination
- Knowledge Exchange
- Partnership Development

### Article 20 - Country Councils

Country Councils may operate as national platforms for WAF.

Each council may include:

- General Council
- Executive Council
- Country Director

Country Councils may act as country level forums of WAF or may register as local legal entities, and enter into MoU with WAF HQ.

## **Article 21 - Accreditation System**

WAF shall maintain a structured accreditation system for Country Councils:

- Provisional Council
- Accredited Council
- Strategic Council

Accreditation reviews shall occur every three years.

## **PART VI - FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE**

### **Article 22 - Financial management**

The Board shall approve:

- Annual Budgets
- Financial Statements
- Independent Audits
- Regulatory Filings

### **Article 23 - Banking Authority**

The organization may:

- Open bank Accounts
- Appoint authorized signatories
- Manage funds and investments
- The fiscal year shall end on December 31.

### **Article 24 - Funding Sources**

Funding may include:

- Donations and Grants
- Institutional partnerships
- Sponsorships
- Event revenues
- Program funding
- Special projects and services

## PART VII - GOVERNANCE POLICIES

### Article 25 - Governance Policies

WAF shall maintain policies including:

- Conflict of interest policy
- Whistleblower policy
- Document retention policy
- Financial oversight policy

### Article 26 - Intellectual Property

- The name World Agriculture Forum, logo, publications, and all data shall remain the intellectual property of WAF Global.
- Country Councils or any affiliated bodies may use the brand only under license.

### Article 27 - Indemnification

Directors, officers, and agents shall be indemnified to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

### Article 28 - Transparency

WAF shall maintain transparent governance practices and publish appropriate information regarding its activities and finances.

### Article 29 - Amendments

These Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Amendments affecting Founder provisions shall require approval of the Founding Directors.

### Article 30 - Compliance

If any provision conflicts with applicable law, the law shall prevail while preserving the intent of this governance framework.

### Article 31 - Dissolution

Upon dissolution, all assets shall be transferred to another nonprofit organization with similar charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3).



**Let's Cultivate a Sustainable Tomorrow !**



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