



Global organization of local governments
and civil society networks

Global Forum
for Social and Solidarity
Economy



THE GSEF BYLAWS

Adopted by the GSEF Extraordinary General Assembly on October 30, 2025

The GSEF Bylaws complement the GSEF Charter, available at gsef-net.org

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Preamble

These Bylaws define the organizational structure, governance bodies, and operating principles of the association.

The political vision, mission, and purpose of the GSEF are set out in the GSEF Charter, which is adopted and amended by the General Assembly (GA).

The Bylaws and the Charter are complementary: the former define the legal organization and governance structure, while the latter outlines the vision, mission, and values of the GSEF.

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Article 1. General Provisions

1.1. Name

The association is named the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum. For the purposes of these Bylaws, it shall be referred to by its acronym GSEF.

1.2. Purpose

The GSEF's purpose is to promote and support the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) worldwide, by fostering the implementation of frameworks, policies, and practices that enable its scaling up and mainstreaming.

It promotes exchange, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among actors, networks, and institutions engaged in the SSE, while engaging in dialogue with public authorities to co-construct local, regional, national, and international policies that strengthen SSE ecosystems.

The local level lies at the core of this dynamic, articulated with regional, national, and international levels. The GSEF facilitates the dissemination and transfer of initiatives and successes, and pays particular attention to ensuring the full participation of youth and women in the SSE, both within the GSEF and in local ecosystems.

1.3. Duration

The Association is established for an indefinite duration.

1.4. Registered Office

The registered office of the GSEF is located in the city of Bordeaux, France. It may be relocated within the same city by decision of the Steering Committee, or to another city by decision of the General Assembly.

1.5. Official Languages

The official languages of the GSEF are English, French, and Spanish. All official documents and strategic communications shall be drafted in at least one of these languages.

1.6. Legal Framework

The GSEF is established as a non-profit association governed by the French law of July 1, 1901, and by these Bylaws. It operates in accordance with applicable laws and recognised standards.

Chapter 2. Members

Article 2. Categories of Members

2.1. Categories

The GSEF distinguishes between two categories of members: full members and allied members.

2.2. Full Members

- 1) Eligibility: Any organization or entity joining the GSEF and demonstrating active engagement in the Social and Solidarity Economy becomes a full member. These members may belong to various categories of actors, including:
 - Local governments, networks of local governments
 - Government institutions or agencies
 - Multi-actor networks combining SSE actors and local governments
 - Networks of civil society organizations
 - NGOs, associations, cooperatives, mutuals, foundations, social enterprises
 - Youth organizations or networks
 - Social and solidarity finance institutions and networks
 - Universities, research institutes, think tanks
- 2) Rights and Responsibilities: Full members have the right to vote at the General Assembly (GA) and are distributed across five weighted voting colleges. They may be elected to the Steering Committee or hold positions as co-chairs or continental co-chairs. They pay an annual membership fee, as defined in an annexed document, and commit to participating in strategic decisions, notably via the General Assembly, and to actively contribute to the development of the GSEF.

2.3. Allied Members

- 1) Eligibility: Organizations or individuals wishing to support the activities of the GSEF may become allied members.
- 2) Rights and Responsibilities: Allied members may participate in GSEF activities and attend the General Assembly but do not have voting rights and cannot hold elective positions on the Steering Committee or as co-chairs or continental co-chairs. At the General Assembly, they are grouped in the College of Partners and Allies. No annual membership fee is required for this category.

2.4. Default Status and Role

- 1) By default, organizations meeting the criteria for active engagement are full members.
- 2) Allied members constitute an exceptional category: their integration occurs by nomination, and their participation is governed by an agreement or based on a specific contribution to the GSEF's activities.

Article 3. Membership and Resignation

3.1. Membership

- 1) Membership in the GSEF is either as a full member or an allied member.
- 2) Candidate organizations submit a form signed by their legal representative to the General Secretariat, which submits the request to the Steering Committee for approval.
- 3) The new member is informed as soon as possible of the outcome of their request and of their membership status.

3.2. Resignation

- 1) A member wishing to resign notifies the General Secretariat in writing.
- 2) The request is brought to the attention of the Steering Committee at its next meeting.
- 3) No vote is required to approve the resignation.

3.3. Warning and Disqualification

- 1) The Steering Committee may disqualify a member (full or allied) in case of behavior contrary to the GSEF's vision, mission, objectives, or Charter.
- 2) The member is notified in writing beforehand and may submit their observations. The final decision is recorded by the Steering Committee and communicated without delay.
- 3) Any full member who has not paid their membership fee for two consecutive years automatically loses their status, unless decided otherwise by the Steering Committee.

Article 4. Rights, Solidarity, and Membership Fees

4.1. Rights

- 1) All GSEF members, whether full or allied, may participate in the activities, programs, and initiatives organized by the GSEF. They have access to information, resources, and archives made available by the GSEF.
- 2) All GSEF members are invited to participate in the General Assembly and may submit proposals and express their opinions through GSEF communication channels.
- 3) Full members have voting rights at the General Assembly and may be elected to the Steering Committee or hold positions as co-chairs or continental co-chairs.

4.2. Solidarity

- 1) GSEF members commit to supporting the missions, programs, and actions of the GSEF.
- 2) They contribute to cooperation, knowledge sharing, good practices, and the development of the SSE ecosystem.

4.3. Membership Fees

- 1) Full members pay an annual membership fee, the amount and calculation method of which are defined in an annexed document. Fee scales are established according to principles of fairness and solidarity.
- 2) In case of non-payment, the Steering Committee may temporarily suspend certain rights of the member, including voting rights.
- 3) After two consecutive years of non-payment, full member status is automatically lost, unless decided otherwise by the Steering Committee.
- 4) Allied members are not subject to a fee but may voluntarily contribute to funding GSEF activities.
- 5) Partial or full exemptions may be granted by the Steering Committee under exceptional circumstances.

Chapter 3. Organizational Structures

Article 5. The General Assembly

5.1. Role and Scope

- 1) The General Assembly (GA) is the sovereign body of the GSEF and the main space for democratic participation. It determines the main orientations, monitors the implementation of decisions, and rules on matters falling under either the Ordinary General Assembly (OGA) or the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA).
- 2) Routine matters fall under the OGA; structural and exceptional matters fall under the EGA.

5.2. Composition

The General Assembly is composed of:

- Full members, who have weighted voting rights according to their College (see 5.4.);
- Allied members, who participate in discussions and may be consulted but do not have voting rights.

5.3. Convocation and agenda

- 1) The OGA meets at least once a year, remotely or in hybrid format during the GSEF Global SSE Forum.
- 2) The EGA is convened whenever necessary for the matters reserved to it.
- 3) The notice, agenda and meeting arrangements are communicated by the Co-chairs, with the support of the General Secretariat, to all members at least 30 days before the date of the General Assembly.

5.4. Voting Rights and Colleges

- 1) Full Members exercise their voting rights within five colleges representing the main categories of GSEF organizations.
- 2) Each college has a specific weighting; the weight of votes varies according to the college of affiliation.
- 3) The allocation of a member to a college is set upon admission and confirmed upon entry into force of these Bylaws. In the event of eligibility for several colleges, allocation is made by priority to the thematic colleges — 3 (Youth), 4 (Social and Solidarity Finance) and 5 (Research and Foresight) — before colleges 1 (Public Actors) and 2 (SSE Actors and Affiliates).
- 4) Allied Members participate in an advisory capacity and are grouped into a sixth non-voting college.
- 5) Votes may be cast in person or by proxy.
- 6) For a decision of the General Assembly to be valid, at least one Full Member per voting college must be present or represented.
- 7) The majorities applicable to each type of decision are specified in Articles 5.5 and 5.6.

Distribution of members by College and voting weight:

Collège	Weight	Type of organizations represented (non-exhaustive)
1. Public Actors	30%	Local governments, networks of local governments, governmental institutions or state agencies
2. SSE Actors and Affiliates	30%	Multi-actor networks, NGOs, associations, social enterprises, cooperatives, mutuals, community groups
3. Youth	20%	Youth organizations or networks
4. Social and Solidarity Finance	10%	Social and solidarity finance institutions or networks
5. Research and Foresight	10%	Universities, research institutes, think tanks

5.5. Ordinary General Assembly (OGA) — Powers and majority

The following fall under the OGA (unless otherwise provided) and are adopted by a weighted simple majority ($\geq 50\%$) of votes cast:

- Strategic orientations and annual budget
- Reports (moral, activity, financial) and approval of the accounts
- Elections: Co-chairs, Continental Co-chairs and elected members of the Steering Committee
- Host City of the Global SSE Forum
- Any other matter not reserved to the EGA

5.6. Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) — Powers and majority

The following fall under the EGA and are adopted by a weighted qualified majority ($\geq 67\%$) of votes cast:

- Amendment of the Charter and the Bylaws
- Dissolution of the GSEF and devolution of assets
- Host country of the registered office and the General Secretariat

Article 6. Steering Committee

6.1. Role and Responsibilities

- 1) The Steering Committee is the GSEF's governing board, its executive and strategic body. It implements the decisions of the General Assembly, leads projects and action plans, oversees the execution of the adopted budget, and monitors the proper functioning of the network in close collaboration with the General Secretariat.
- 2) In this capacity, it:
 - reviews new membership applications and submits them for validation;
 - examines and recommends candidacies to host the Global SSE Forum;
 - represents the GSEF at the international, continental, and local levels;
 - prepares, together with the Bureau, the work of the General Assembly.
- 3) The Steering Committee may delegate to the Bureau the power to take decisions limited to day-to-day management and emergencies, in accordance with Article 8.

6.2. Composition

- 1) The Steering Committee is composed of a maximum of 20 members, including:
 - 18 members elected by the General Assembly;
 - 2 members appointed as Host Co-chairs of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum (details of their appointment: Article 7.3).
- 2) The composition aims to reflect the geographical, institutional, and thematic diversity of the GSEF and includes:
 - the 2 GSEF Co-chairs;
 - the 2 Host Co-chairs of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum;
 - up to 10 Continental Co-chairs: five pairs (binômes) from College 1 (Public Actors) and College 2 (SSE Actors and Affiliates); any unfilled seat automatically becomes an open seat;
 - 4 thematic members: 2 from College 3 (Youth), 1 from College 4 (Social and Solidarity Finance), and 1 from College 5 (Research and Foresight);
 - at least 2 open seats, adjustable if some Continental Co-chair seats remain vacant.
 - Note: The allocation of seats within the Steering Committee is based on the same five colleges defined for voting rights in the General Assembly (cf. Article 5.4).
- 3) The detailed composition of the Steering Committee may be adjusted depending on the applications received, while respecting the maximum limit of 20 seats.

Summary Table (Indicative)

Category	Seats	Colleges	Remarks
GSEF Co-chairs	2	Colleges 1 & 2	○ 1 local government + 1 SSE network or actor
Host Co-chairs of the Global SSE Forum	2	Colleges 1 & 2	○ 1 local government + 1 SSE network or actor ○ Details on appointment: Article 7.3
Continental Co-chairs	Up to 10	Colleges 1 & 2	○ Objective: 2 seats per continent (one pair from College 1 and 2) ○ Any unfilled seat becomes an open seat.
Thematic members	4	Colleges 3, 4 & 5	○ 2 from College 3 (Youth) ○ 1 from College 4 (<i>Social and Solidarity Finance</i>) ○ 1 from College 5 (<i>Research and Foresight</i>)
Open seats	2 to 12	All Colleges	○ Minimum of 2 guaranteed ○ Increases if continental seats remain vacant
Total	Max 20	—	—

6.3. Election and Term of Office

- 1) Members of the Steering Committee are elected by the General Assembly, except for the two seats reserved for the Host Co-chairs of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum, who are appointed according to the provisions set out in Article 7.3.
- 2) Applications:
 - Applications must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least 45 days before the election.
 - Only Full Members up to date with their membership fees are eligible to apply.
 - The General Secretariat circulates the list of candidates at least 30 days before the elective General Assembly.
 - This list specifies the allocation of open seats and thematic seats based on the applications received.
- 3) Term of Office:
 - The term of office for Steering Committee members is two years, renewable without limitation, unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly.
 - A member loses their seat in the event of three consecutive unjustified absences to Steering Committee meetings.
- 4) The GSEF treasurer is elected by and among the members of the Steering Committee at its first meeting following the election of the Steering Committee by the General Assembly. Their term of office is aligned with that of the Steering Committee.

6.4. Alternates and Proxy Voting

- 1) Each elected member may nominate an alternate, who must also be a Full Member of the GSEF.
- 2) The alternate may attend meetings and vote in the absence of the principal member.
- 3) Members of the Steering Committee may also grant a proxy to another member of the Steering Committee or to a representative of their organization.

6.5. Functioning

- 1) The Steering Committee meets at least twice a year in an official session.
- 2) Decisions are taken by a simple majority of members present or represented.
- 3) In the event of a tie, the Co-chairs' vote prevails.
- 4) The Steering Committee may invite GSEF members, experts, or strategic partners to attend meetings without voting rights.
- 5) Decisions taken by the Bureau on behalf of the Steering Committee are documented in a report sent to the Steering Committee.

6.6. Relations with the General Secretariat

- 1) The General Secretariat attends meetings in an administrative capacity, without voting rights.
- 2) Its responsibilities include:
 - preparing meeting agendas with the Bureau;
 - presenting preparatory documents (projects, budgets, reports, etc.);
 - ensuring proper conduct of meetings and logistical management;
 - overseeing the administrative follow-up of Steering Committee decisions.

Article 7. Co-chairs, Continental Co-chairs, and Host Co-chairs of the Forum

7.1. GSEF Co-chairs

- 1) The GSEF is chaired by a duo of Co-chairs composed of:
 - one representative of a local government;
 - one representative of an SSE network or local SSE actor.
- 2) These two entities must both be Full Members of the GSEF and must come from the same territory.
- 3) Term and Election:
 - The Co-chairs are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term, renewable without limitation through re-election.
 - Applications must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least 45 days before the elective General Assembly.
- 4) Role and Responsibilities:
 - The Co-chairs lead the General Assembly and represent the GSEF.
 - By default, the legal representative of the GSEF is the mayor or president of the local government serving as Co-chair.
 - In the event one Co-chair is unable to serve, their partner assumes interim responsibilities and informs the Steering Committee.
 - They uphold the GSEF's strategy, ensure compliance with the Charter and Bylaws, and oversee the proper functioning of the General Secretariat.
 - They sit on the GSEF Bureau and set its agenda together with the Secretary General.

7.2. Continental Co-chairs

- 1) Each continent where the GSEF has members is represented by one or two Continental Co-chairs.
- 2) When two Continental Co-chairs are elected for the same continent, they must, whenever possible, form a mixed duo composed of:
 - one representative of a local government (College 1);
 - one representative of an SSE network or actor (College 2).
- 3) Both seats cannot be held by representatives from the same category: either two local governments or two SSE actors.
- 4) Term and Election:
 - Continental Co-chairs are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term, renewable without limitation through re-election.
 - Applications must be submitted to the General Secretariat at least 45 days before the elective General Assembly.
 - Continental Co-chairs automatically sit on the Steering Committee.
- 5) Role and Responsibilities:
 - Promote the GSEF's strategy at the continental level and represent members of the continent.
 - Foster regional dynamics, encourage cooperation among members, and promote the establishment of new partnerships.
 - Organize at least one continental policy dialogue or regional event per year.

7.3. Host Co-chairs of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum

- 1) The Host Co-chairs of the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum are the local government and the SSE network or actor from the territory hosting the Forum.
- 2) Appointment:
 - Their appointment results from the General Assembly's decision selecting the Host City of the Forum, in accordance with Article 12.2.
 - They automatically become members of the Steering Committee as Host Co-chairs.
 - Their mandate begins upon appointment by the General Assembly and continues until the election of a new Host Duo at the following Global Forum.
 - The duration of their mandate depends on the interval between Forums and may therefore vary.
- 3) Role:
 - They co-organize the Global SSE Forum with the GSEF, following the provisions defined in Article 12.
 - They actively participate in Steering Committee meetings during their mandate.

Article 8. Bureau

8.1. Role and Responsibilities

- 1) The Bureau is the organ that works most closely with the General Secretariat to implement the decisions of the Steering Committee and the General Assembly.
- 2) It provides support to the General Secretariat for the organisation's administrative and routine tasks and for the operational follow-up of missions.
- 3) It prepares meetings of the Steering Committee, notably by proposing the agenda, consolidating files, and, where appropriate, formulating recommendations.
- 4) It ensures governance transparency: a record of discussions, prepared by the Secretary General, is transmitted to the Steering Committee, without waiting for official meetings when important items arise.
- 5) Within the delegations set by the Steering Committee, the Bureau may decide on various matters, without substituting for the powers of the General Assembly or the Steering Committee.

8.2. Appointment and Composition

- 1) The Bureau is composed of the GSEF Co-chairs and the GSEF Treasurer.
- 2) The Co-chairs are elected in accordance with Article 7.1.
- 3) The GSEF treasurer is elected by and among the members of the Steering Committee at its first meeting following the election of the Steering Committee by the General Assembly. Their term of office is aligned with that of the Steering Committee, in accordance with article 6.3.
- 4) The Secretary General attends Bureau meetings by invitation of the Bureau.

8.3. Meetings and operating rules

- 1) The Bureau meets once a month and may meet on an urgent basis if necessary.
- 2) Bureau agendas are set by the Co-chairs, in liaison with the Secretary General.
- 3) After each meeting, the General Secretariat prepares a record of discussions addressed to the Steering Committee.

8.4. Relations with the Steering Committee and General Secretariat

- 1) The Bureau is an emanation of the Steering Committee: it supports the execution of orientations adopted by the General Assembly and the Steering Committee and reports regularly to the Steering Committee by means of the record of discussions.
- 2) The recruitment of the Secretary General is conducted by the Bureau; the result of the process is presented to the Steering Committee, without a vote.

Article 9. General Secretariat

9.1. Appointment and Composition

- 1) The GSEF establishes its General Secretariat, which should preferably be located in the city of the GSEF Co-chairs. The final decision on its location is made by the General Assembly.
- 2) The General Secretariat is led by a Secretary General, appointed by the GSEF Bureau.

9.2. Role and Responsibilities

- 1) The General Secretariat is the permanent executive and coordinating body of the network. It ensures the proper functioning of the GSEF's internal governance and supports all organizational bodies.
- 2) In this capacity, it:
 - prepares and organizes meetings of the General Assembly, the Steering Committee, and other GSEF bodies;
 - implements and communicates all decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Steering Committee;
 - facilitates the member network and develops conditions to strengthen the identity and sense of belonging to the GSEF;
 - manages and follows up on the collection of annual membership fees;
 - supports Steering Committee members in implementing strategic directions;
 - proposes and coordinates political, geographic, and thematic facilitation tools to encourage experience sharing and knowledge capitalization, including through thematic groups and continental dialogues;
 - manages the logistics and administrative follow-up of GSEF events and activities, including the organization of the General Assembly;
 - hires staff as needed and executes employment contracts in accordance with international labor law standards.
- 3) The Secretary General participates, upon invitation from the Bureau, in its meetings and prepares the record of discussions addressed to the Steering Committee.

9.3. Funding and Resources

- 1) The General Secretariat has access to the resources necessary for its operation, provided by the GSEF Co-chairs.
- 2) The GSEF retains overall responsibility for the budgetary management of the Secretariat, including the monitoring of expenditures and the planning of human and financial resources required to fulfill its missions.

Article 10. Advisory Committee

10.1. Role and Responsibilities

- 1) The Advisory Committee is a consultative and guidance body of the GSEF. Its members may be called upon at any time to provide expertise, assist, or advise the General Secretariat and governance bodies.
- 2) The Advisory Committee does not hold decision-making power, but it ensures that the GSEF maintains an independent international dynamic in promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

10.2. Composition

- 1) The Advisory Committee is composed of a minimum of 10 members, representing various geographical areas and different levels of expertise and different themes within the SSE.
- 2) It includes resource persons who contribute to policy dialogues, thematic groups, and GSEF projects.

10.3. Appointment and Term

- 1) New nominations may be proposed by the Advisory Committee members, the General Secretariat, or the Steering Committee.
- 2) The General Secretariat informs the Steering Committee of any new nomination or departure.
- 3) The term of office is set at two years, starting from the member's first participation in an Advisory Committee meeting.
- 4) At the end of the term, the General Secretariat consults members to confirm their willingness to renew their participation.
- 5) Renewal requires an active confirmation from the member, and the General Secretariat informs the Steering Committee accordingly.
- 6) In the event of non-confirmation or prolonged absence (more than three consecutive meetings), the mandate may end early by mutual agreement between the member and the General Secretariat, and a replacement may then be proposed in accordance with the nomination procedures.

Article 11. GSEF SSE Youth Hub

11.1. Role and Responsibilities

- 1) The GSEF SSE Youth Hub is a permanent statutory structure of the GSEF dedicated to the participation, mobilization, and facilitation of youth actors in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) within the network. It contributes to the GSEF's mission by promoting youth engagement in local, continental, and international SSE dynamics and by strengthening their role in the network's governance.
- 2) Its missions include:
 - Awareness: Promote SSE values, practices, and professions among youth, and animate the Jeun'ESS community.
 - Advocacy: Represent the voice of youth in decision-making and dialogue spaces, highlighting young people's role as actors of Just Transitions and sustainable development.
 - Support: Assist youth projects and initiatives (platforms, incubators, cooperatives, territorial programs), and develop training and cooperation tools.
- 3) The SSE Youth Hub may also make recommendations to the GSEF governance bodies, while remaining a consultative body without decision-making power.

11.2. Composition and Functioning

- 1) The SSE Youth Hub is organized at intercontinental and continental levels, based on the distribution of GSEF youth members. Each continent has a Continental Co-pilot, appointed from among Full Members of the GSEF following a Statement of Interest.
- 2) Co-pilots coordinate regional activities of the Hub and ensure the implementation of its strategy and actions on their continent.
- 3) The term of office for Continental Co-pilots is two years, renewable, and may be adjusted by the General Secretariat and the Steering Committee in consultation with the Hub.
- 4) The Hub brings together youth organizations and networks that are GSEF members, forming an internal group while remaining open to collaborations with other SSE actors.
- 5) It is represented in the Steering Committee via the two seats dedicated to College 3 (Youth), comprising youth networks and actors participating in the Hub.
- 6) In the General Assembly, the Youth Hub is represented through College 3, ensuring youth participation in GSEF decisions and exchanges.

Article 12. The GSEF Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum

12.1. Organization and Principles

- 1) The Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum (Global SSE Forum) is an international event co-organized regularly by the GSEF and a Host Duo composed of a local government and a local SSE network or actor, both being Full Members of the GSEF and elected by the General Assembly.
- 2) Each Forum edition is named as follows: [City]GSEF[Year] (e.g., DakarGSEF2023, BordeauxGSEF2025).
- 3) The Forum serves as an international platform for meeting, dialogue, cooperation, and dissemination of good practices, aiming to promote the SSE at local, national, and international levels, and also acts as a political advocacy space, culminating in a Political Declaration and a Call to Action.

12.2. Designation of the Host City

- 1) The Host City and its Organizing Duo are selected by vote of the General Assembly.
- 2) The application must be submitted by a Full Member local government and include:
 - an official letter from its representative to the General Secretariat;
 - a proposal for co-organization with a local SSE network or actor;
 - a complete application package submitted at least 60 days before the opening of the General Assembly.
- 3) A Partnership Agreement is signed between the GSEF and the Host Duo to define the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of each party.
- 4) Detailed organizational conditions and technical procedures are specified in a separate document.

12.3. Organizing Committee and Scientific Governance

- 1) The host local government and its SSE partner establish a public-private Organizing Committee responsible for preparing and coordinating the Forum.
- 2) This committee is led by the Organizing Duo and includes the GSEF as well as other relevant actors in a cooperative framework.
- 3) The committee is responsible for:
 - preparing a detailed proposal and budget, approved by the competent decision-making body of the host government, to be submitted at least one year before the event;
 - establishing an International Scientific Committee to contribute to programming and content, and an International Drafting Committee to draft the Political Declaration of the Forum;
 - ensuring logistical preparation, coordination, and implementation of the Forum.

12.4. Integration with Network Activities

- 1) The Forum co-organizers (local government and SSE partner) automatically become members of the Steering Committee as Host Co-chairs, until the election of a new Host Duo at the next Global Forum (cf. Article 7.3). They are required to actively participate in Steering Committee meetings during this period.
- 2) The Forum also serves as the primary setting for the General Assembly of the GSEF. The Host City, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, is responsible for the proper organization and smooth conduct of the General Assembly during the event.

Chapter 4. Funding

Article 13. Funding

13.1. GSEF Revenues

The sources of GSEF revenues include:

- 1) Annual Membership Fees: The Steering Committee sets the amount of fees, taking into account the type, size, and financial capacity of members. Adjusted measures may be proposed for members facing exceptional financial constraints.
- 2) Public Subsidies: Grants provided by local governments or other public authorities to support GSEF's operations, projects, or initiatives.
- 3) Funds for Joint Projects: Raised by local governments, international organizations, or private entities, including GSEF members.
- 4) Donations and Voluntary Contributions: From members or non-members.
- 5) Activity-Related Income: Profits from publications, royalties, events, and various contracts.
- 6) Non-financial Donations: Provision of material, human, or technical resources to support GSEF's activities.

13.2. Expenditures

- 1) Funding must be used in accordance with the association's objectives and values, in a spirit of transparency and solidarity among members.
- 2) GSEF covers its operating expenses, including administrative costs of the Secretariat, organization of governance meetings, and associated events.
- 3) Any expenditure exceeding an amount defined by the Steering Committee must be approved by the Bureau.

13.3. Treasury and Oversight

- 1) The fiscal year of the GSEF begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 each year.
- 2) The Secretary General prepares an Annual Financial Report submitted for approval to the General Assembly.
- 3) An Auditor may be appointed by the Steering Committee to audit the accounts annually.
- 4) The Treasurer, elected by and within the Steering Committee for a two-year term, is responsible for the proper financial management and appropriate use of GSEF funds.

Chapter 5. Revision and dissolution

Article 14. Revision of the Charter and Bylaws

14.1. Amendment Procedure

- 1) Any amendment to the Charter or Bylaws of the GSEF must be decided by an Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA).
- 2) Proposals for amendment may be submitted by the Steering Committee, the General Secretariat, or at least 10% of Full Members.

14.2. Quorum and Required Majority

For a decision to be valid:

- At least one representative from each voting college (cf. Article 5.4) must be present or represented;
- The amendment must be adopted by a qualified majority of two-thirds ($\geq 67\%$) of the weighted votes cast by Full Members present or represented.

Article 15. Dissolution

15.1. Dissolution Procedure

- 1) Dissolution of the GSEF may only be decided by a specifically convened Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA).
- 2) The decision must be adopted by a qualified majority of two-thirds ($\geq 67\%$) of the weighted votes of Full Members present or represented.
- 3) Dissolution may occur:
 - By voluntary decision of the EGA;
 - In case of manifest impossibility to pursue the association's purpose or due to Force Majeure making the continuation of activities impracticable;
 - In any other situation provided by law or by the GSEF Charter.

15.2. Devolution of Assets

- 1) In the event of dissolution, the association's assets shall be transferred to one or more organizations pursuing a similar purpose, in accordance with law and the decisions of the General Assembly.
- 2) No property of the association may be returned to a member or an officer of the association.

Pierre Hurmic

Mayor of Bordeaux, France
GSEF Co-Chair

Stéphane Montuzet

President of CRESS Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France
GSEF Co-Chair