

Supplement to the 1st issue of the
«The World Lebanese Union».

CONSTITUTION

of the

« WORLD LEBANESE UNION »

Adopted by the Second World Convention held in Beirut - Lebanon
between the 20 th and the 22d of August 1964

FINAL TEXT

CHAPTER I. — NAME — MEMBERSHIP

Art. 1.— An association is hereby established bearing the name the «World Lebanese Union», a non-governmental, non-political, non-religious and non-labor organization.

Art. 2.— A— The membership of the «World Lebanese Union» will be composed outside of Lebanon of :

- a) Lebanese, persons of Lebanese origin and others related to them by marriage and are supporters of the objectives of the «World Lebanese Union» ;
- b) Lebanese clubs and societies which conform with the provisions of this Constitution.

B— In Lebanon it will be composed of Lebanese, persons of Lebanese origin who have spent at least five years abroad returned to Lebanon.

CHAPTER II. — OBJECTIVES.

- Art. 3.*— The Union endeavours to realize the following objectives :
- a) to establish ties of loyalty and mutual respect between its members and the peoples of the countries in which they live and to contribute to the development and progress of these countries,
 - b) to strengthen the ties between its members and the people of Lebanon,
 - c) to promote closer relations amongst its members on the national and international plans,
 - d) to encourage the participation of its members in economic, social, cultural and touristic activities in Lebanon and to improve the cultural, economic and commercial relations between the countries in which they live and Lebanon and,
 - e) to foster the Lebanese cultural heritage throughout the world.

CHAPTER III.— ORGANIZATION WITHIN EACH COUNTRY

Art. 4.— Only one chapter of the «World Lebanese Union» is to be formed in every city or group of cities or towns abroad and in Lebanon.

Art. 5.— The local chapter shall be composed of :

- a) Individuals residing in that city or group of cities or towns.
- b) Lebanese clubs and societies operating in that city or group of cities and towns which affiliate with it.

The individual members and the representatives of clubs and societies form together a single electoral body which shall elect an administrative committee for the chapter composed according to by-laws which it shall establish in agreement with the Regional Council.

CHAPTER IV. ORGANIZATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN

Art. 6.— The local chapters shall form the following Regional Councils for :

	<i>Seats of the Councils in</i>
1) LEBANON, THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE MIDDLE EAST : one council	BEIRUT
2) CANADA : two councils	a) MONTREAL b) EDMONTON
3) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : five councils	a) NEW-YORK b) BOSTON c) DETROIT d) HOUSTON e) LOS ANGELES
4) MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES : one council	MEXICO CITY
5) VENEZUELA AND CARRIBEAN COUNTRIES : one council	CARACAS
6) BOLIVARIAN STATES (COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND PERU) : one council	BOGOTA
7) BRAZIL : six councils	a) RIO DE JANEIRO b) SAO PAULO c) BELO HORIZONTE d) RECIFE e) PORTO ALEGRE f) CORITIBA
8) CHILI AND PARAGUAY : two councils	a) SANTIAGO b) ASUNCION
9) ARGENTINA : one council	BUONES-AIRES
10) URUGUAY : one council	MONTEVIDEO
11) NIGERIA, CHAD AND CAMERON : one council	LAGOS
12) SENEGAL AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC : one council	DAKAR
13) UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE TWO CONGO STATES : one council	JOHANNESBOURG
14) HAUTE VOLTA, DAHOMEY, TOGO, NIGER, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE : one council	ABIDJAN
15) GUINEA, GHANA AND MALI : one council	ACCRA
16) EUROPE : one council	PARIS
17) AUSTRALASIA AND FAR EAST : one council	SYDNEY

Art. 7.— A continental executive committee shall be formed in each of the American and African continents which shall comprise amongst its members the Vice-President in the continent concerned. Where no continental committee exists, its functions shall be performed by the Regional Council.

The duties of these committees, each within its continent, are to ensure liaison among the Regional Councils, to coordinate their activities, to organize the continental conventions and to ensure the contacts with the World Council and the Secretariat General.

Art. 8.— The Regional Council shall be composed of the presidents of chapters, and of one other member from each chapter designated by its executive committee. In turn they do elect a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and other officers for the Regional Council.

Art. 9.— The continental executive committee shall be composed of the Presidents of the Regional Councils in the continent concerned.

Art. 10.— A President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General and a Treasurer for the continental committee shall be elected by the delegates to the continental convention.

CHAPTER V. — THE WORLD COUNCIL

Art. 11.— A World Council shall be formed for the «World Lebanese Union» with an executive office in Beirut.

The duties of this Council shall be to organize and coordinate the work of the World Lebanese Union and the activities of continental committees and Regional Councils, to supervise the work of the General Secretariat, to carry out the objectives of the «World Lebanese Union» and to implement its resolutions.

Art. 12.— The World Council shall be composed of :

1) The Presidents and Secretaries General of the continental committees.

2) Eight Vice-Presidents, one for each of the following geographical areas :

- a) United States of America and Canada;
- b) Mexico and Central America;
- c) South American countries other than Brazil;
- d) Brazil;
- e) Australasia and Far East;
- f) African Countries;
- g) Lebanon, Arab States and Middle East;
- h) Europe.

Should there be more than one Regional Council in any one of these areas, the Presidents of the Regional Councils in the area concerned shall elect a Vice-President to represent them on the World Council.

3) A President for the World Council elected by the world convention once every three years from amongst the Presidents of continental committees, of Regional Councils and of chapters or from amongst the members

nominated by the chairmen of delegations. The President shall occupy his post for three years and is not eligible for reelection. It is advisable, when possible, to rotate the World Presidency and to have it occupied once every three years by a President from a different continent.

4) A First Executive Vice-President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer elected during the World Convention for a period of three years and who shall have their headquarters in Beirut.

Should the elected President have his residence in Lebanon, the First Vice-President shall be elected from amongst the candidates residing abroad.

Nominations for any official post in the «World Lebanese Union» shall be presented only by the Presidents of Continental Committees, Regional Councils and chapters or by the Chairmen of delegations.

They alone have the right to nominate any member of their delegations.

Art. 13.— 1) Amongst his functions the President of the World Council shall make periodical visits to the various areas and regions, to call the World Council into ordinary and extraordinary sessions, to represent the «World Lebanese Union» on the international plan and to speak in its name.

2) Each Vice-President shall ensure the liaison between the World Council and its President on one hand and the Union's organs in his geographical area on the other hand; by virtue of his being member of the continental Committee he shall also ensure the liaison between those organs and that Committee.

3) The Secretary General shall administer the Secretariat General and execute the resolutions of the Union's Conventions and their recommendations.

Art. 14.— 1) The World Council holds a regular session during the second part of July of every year.

The quorum shall be composed of the absolute majority of the Council members or their representatives.

2) When required the World Council shall be convoked into extraordinary sessions by the President or on the request of one third of the Council members. This request, stating the reasons for the session, must be presented to the Secretary General who shall call the Council into meeting.

Art. 15.— Should the office of the President become vacant, the First Vice-President shall assume the duties of that office until the election by the World Convention of a new President.

Should the office of the Secretary General become vacant, the World Council will meet to designate a Secretary General who will continue the work until the following World Convention.

CHAPTER VI. — CONVENTIONS

Art. 16.— The Union shall hold its conventions as follows :

- 1) Conventions by Regional Councils to be held once a year.
- 2) A Continental Convention to be held once every two years.
- 3) A World Convention to be convened by the World Council once every three years in Lebanon.

CHAPTER VII.

ADMINISTRATION — EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS — FINANCE

Art. 17.— 1) The World Council shall establish its by-laws in which shall be determined the responsibilities and the functions of its members, the relations between the council and all the organs of the World Lebanese Union and the ways and means by which the resolutions and recommendations of the World Conventions shall be implemented.

2) When and where needed the World Council shall designate assistant Secretaries to the Secretary General taking into consideration the nominations presented by the Secretary General in agreement with the Vice-Presidents in the areas concerned.

Art. 18.— In the World Conventions, each of the World Council, the Continental Committees, the Regional Councils and the chapters shall be represented by one or more delegates. Each body will have only one vote.

Art. 19.— The World Council shall establish an annual general budget determining the receipts and the expenditures needed for the Union's operations, the implementation of adopted resolutions, the payment of salaries, the expenses of the Union's bureaus and of publicity and for other needs. This shall be done according to a special financial statute which the Council shall formulate.

Art. 20.— The Continental Committees, Regional Councils and chapters shall finance the Union's treasury with the funds needed for its operations and for the execution of the resolutions adopted by the World Convention and Council. This shall be done according to regulations and a plan established by the World Council determining the means of collecting funds and contributions made to the treasury of the Union.

Art. 21.— The President and the Vice-Presidents shall receive no financial compensation for their work.

Art. 22.— The Continental Committees, Regional Councils and Chapters shall adopt their own by-laws and submit them, through the Secretariat General, to the World Council to ensure that they conform with the Union's principles.

Each of these organs shall determine in its by-laws, the membership fees and its financial obligations in accordance with its possibilities.

CHAPTER VIII. — GENERAL CLAUSES.

Art. 23.— The Union shall channel through the «Department of Lebanese Overseas» in the «Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lebanese Overseas» their communications with the official and public institutions of Lebanon.

Art. 24.— This Constitution could only be amended during a World Convention according to proposals submitted by the World Council.