

# Constitution

## *of the Yale International Relations Association*



*Undergraduate Organization Constitution - Updated August 2024*

### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

**Section One.** The name of the Corporation shall be the Yale International Relations Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as 'YIRA').

**Section Two.** The purpose of YIRA shall be to raise awareness of and foster debate about international relations and global affairs through a number of unique programs.

### **Article II: Programs**

**Section One.** The constituent programs of YIRA include:

1. Yale Model United Nations (YMUN),
2. Yale Model United Nations Europe (YMUNE),
3. Yale Model United Nations Korea (YMUNK),
4. Hemispheres,
5. Yale Review of International Studies (YRIS),
6. Yale International Relations Institute (YIRLI),
7. Yale Model United Nations Taiwan (YMUNT),
8. Yale Model United Nations China (YMUNC),
9. Yale Model African Union (YMAU),
10. Yale Model United Nations India (YMUNI),
11. Yale Model United Nations Latin America (YMUN LatAm),
12. Yale Model United Nations Dubai (YMUND),
13. Yale Model United Nations Singapore (YMUNS),
14. Model United Nations Team at Yale (MUNTY).



**Section Two.** YMUN, which shall be held annually, shall serve as a Model United Nations conference for students at the high school level.

**Section Three.** MUNTY shall represent Yale University at intercollegiate Model United Nations conferences.

**Section Four.** YMUN Europe shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Europe for students at the high school level.

**Section Five.** YMUN Korea shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Korea for students at the high school level.

**Section Six.** Hemispheres shall aim to raise awareness and foster discussion about international affairs among secondary school students in the New Haven community.

**Section Seven.** YRIS shall serve as a publication on international relations and global affairs that includes work from Yale students and is disseminated to the Yale community.

**Section Eight.** YIRLI shall serve as a program for high school students that includes programming related to Model United Nations, international relations, and public speaking, and shall be held between the months of June and August.

**Section Nine.** YMUN Taiwan shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Taiwan for students at the high school level.

**Section Ten.** YMAU shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Africa for students at the university level.

**Section Eleven.** YMUN India shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in India for students at the high school level.

**Section Twelve.** YMUN Latin America shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Latin America for students at the high school level.

**Section Thirteen.** YMUN Dubai shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Dubai for students at the high school level.

**Section Fourteen.** YMUN Singapore shall serve as a Model United Nations conference in Singapore for students at the high school level.



**Section Fifteen.** Constituent programs of YIRA shall not also be independently registered organizations with the Yale College Dean's Office or with other Yale or non-Yale organizations.

**Section Sixteen.** Staffing for all constituent programs of YIRA shall be based solely upon merit and shall be conducted without discrimination to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

## **Article III: Membership**

**Section One.** Members of YIRA shall consist of undergraduate students in good standing at Yale University.

**Section Two.** The YIRA official membership shall consist of:

1. Those students who meet the membership requirements of each constituent program,
2. Those students who meet the membership requirements of any independent initiative or program without representation on the Board of the Directors, provided the initiative or program demands a commitment similar to that of YIRA's constituent programs, with those initiatives and programs so identified by the YIRA President and approved by the YIRA Board of Directors,
3. All members of the YIRA Board of Directors.

**Section Three.** YIRA honorary membership shall be granted by the Board of Directors to those who are deemed to have substantially contributed to advancing YIRA's mission.

**Section Four.** All members shall, until the adoption of the following semester's set of membership lists, receive the following rights, privileges, and benefits:

1. The right to vote at all meetings of the membership,
2. The right to attend social and speaker events,
3. Access to this Constitution, the YIRA Policies, and the YIRA membership list,
4. Other rights, privileges, and benefits not listed above granted by the Board of Directors at its discretion.

**Section Five.** Should an individual be deemed to not have satisfied their conditions of membership, as deemed by the head of their constituent program or, in cases where membership is received through an independent initiative or program or the Board of Directors, by the YIRA President, membership benefits can be revoked at the discretion of the head of the individual's constituent program, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

## **Article IV: The Board of Directors**



**Section One.** Governing power of YIRA shall be vested in its Board of Directors.

**Section Two.** The Board of Directors of YIRA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Director, Secretary, Secretary-General of YMUN, Head Delegate of MUNTY, Director of Hemispheres, Editor-in-Chief of YRIS, Secretary-General of YMUN Korea, Secretary-General of YMUN Taiwan, Secretary-General of YMUN Europe, Executive Director of the Yale International Relations Leadership Institute, President of Yale Model African Union, Secretary-General of YMUN Dubai, Secretary-General of YMUN India, Secretary-General of YMUN Latin America, and Secretary-General of YMUN Singapore.

**Section Three.** Any Director of YIRA may be impeached from the Board of Directors, with cause, by the passage of a motion to impeach by the Board of Directors or the filing of a petition to impeach by the membership. Grounds for impeachment include, but are not limited to, a consistent failure to execute the duties of office, and the misuse, mishandling, or theft of YIRA funds, equipment, or resources.

1. Two-thirds (2/3) of all Directors eligible to vote, by a motion to impeach, may impeach a Director. A Director impeached by the Board must then be removed by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at a General Meeting within one month of the impeachment. Quorum for such a meeting shall be one-fifth (1/5) of the membership. Alternatively, One-fifth (1/5) or more of the members, by petition filed with the President or any other Director, may begin the process of impeaching a Director. A Director impeached by a petition filed by the membership may be removed by a majority of the entire membership eligible to vote within one month of the impeachment. Quorum for such a meeting shall be three-fifths (3/5) of the membership.
2. A Director may not be impeached unless a suitable replacement can be found to execute their duties.
3. An impeached Director will lose all privileges associated with the position, including but not limited to the right or privilege of access to YIRA funding and control over any materials related to that office to the Board of Directors.

**Section Four.** Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by election of a majority of all Directors eligible to vote. If the President's office is vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of President.

**Section Five.** The following will be the removal process for any constituent or independent initiative head for their duties within said program, as opposed to the aforementioned removal process for their duties as a YIRA Board Director. By unanimous vote of those YIRA Board Directors not in question, the Board may remove the heads of any constituent program or independent initiative, including the Secretary-General of YMUN, for failing to meet expectations in conference preparation or other duties deemed necessary for the functioning of the program or YIRA at large. In an open Board meeting, the President must present the case against the constituent head and the constituent head must be given an opportunity to present their own case. If the



constituent head is removed, the Board must accept nominations for a replacement immediately. The Board must choose among these nominees in a closed meeting directly following the open one.

**Section Six.** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on call of the President at times and places determined by the President. During the months of September through April, there shall be a required meeting with the entire board of directors.

**Section Seven.** A majority of voting Directors shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie vote, the motion shall be deemed to have failed. A majority of Directors present at any meeting, if less than a quorum, may adjourn or recess the meeting.

**Section Eight.** If an elected position of the Board of Directors is not adequately filled by the time ballots close, the Board of Directors will proceed by opening the position up for another week and conducting selection by application and interview. The Board of Directors will then vote on the best candidate.

## Article V: Election of the Directors

**Section One.** Any undergraduate member of YIRA – and only undergraduate members of YIRA - may stand as a candidate for the Board of Directors. No person may hold more than one voting position on the Board of Directors.

**Section Two.** The President, Vice-President, Executive Director, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by majority vote of all members present at an election meeting called for Annual General Elections, according to the procedure outlined in the YIRA Policies.

**Section Three.** The Secretary-General of YMUN, Head Delegate of MUNTY, Head of Hemispheres, Editor-in-Chief of YRIS, Secretary-General of YMUN Korea, Secretary-General of YMUN Taiwan, President(s) of YMUN Europe, President(s) of YMAU and Head of YIRLI, Secretary-General of YMUN Dubai, Secretary-General of YMUN India, Secretary-General of YMUN Latin America, Secretary-General of YMUN Singapore, and other heads shall be selected in accordance with the procedure outlined in the YIRA policies, and should include a rigorous application and interview process, to be overseen by the Board of Directors.

**Section Four.** The term of office of all elected board members shall begin on the first day of the month of May following their election or selection and shall end on the following thirtieth of April. The term of office for the Secretaries-General of YMUN, YMUNK, YMUNT, YMUNE, YMUNS, YMUND, YMUNI, YMUNILatAm, YMAU, the MUNTY Head Delegate, the Hemispheres Director, the YRIS Editor-in-Chief and the Director of





YIRLI shall begin immediately following their selection and Executive Board approval, and shall end immediately following the selection and Executive Board approval of their successor.

## **Article VI: Duties of the Directors**

**Section One.** Each member of the Board of Directors must carry out all responsibilities outlined in the YIRA policies, with these responsibilities consisting of those that are binding on all Board members, which constitute the responsibilities of serving as a member of the Board of Directors, and those that apply only to the Director's specific position, with those responsibilities constituting the official job description of that member of the Board of Directors.

**Section Two.** It shall be the duty of all directors to submit projected and actual budgets to the Board of Directors for approval by a majority vote.

**Section Three.** It shall be the duty of each outgoing Director to relinquish all pertinent files regarding their position to their successor and to serve as an advisor to their successor.

## **Article VII: Policies**

**Section One.** The YIRA Board shall update and maintain a document of policies designed to guide all procedures, rules, and regulations regarding the governance of YIRA and her constituent programs not outlined in the Constitution. No policy shall contradict the Constitution, and policies are binding on future boards unless otherwise stated.

**Section Two.** Policies shall be updated throughout the year at the discretion of the current YIRA Executive Board. Policy amendments must be written and approved by a majority of the YIRA Board of Directors and published for the general membership in a timely manner.

**Section Three.** Should a member of YIRA in good standing believe any policies are not being executed in accordance with the standards of the YIRA Constitution, they may submit a formal complaint to the YIRA President listing the sections violated and describing the circumstances of the violation.

**Section Four.** The President bears responsibility for executing all YIRA Policies.

**Section Five.** All YIRA members are only allowed to attend four international conferences during their time at Yale.



**Section Six.** All YIRA members must chair/vice chair YMUN in order to qualify for a position on a YIRA international conference Secretariat. Chairing/vice-chairing YMUN includes completing the topic guide (if applicable), attending Parliamentary Procedure training hosted by the YMUN Secretariat, and attending all seven committee sessions during the weekend YMUN is being held. Failure to do so will result in being barred from being accepted into an international conference.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

**Section One.** The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all Directors eligible to vote. Amendments may be voted upon at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Amendments approved by the Board of Directors must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership present and voting at a General Meeting held within two months of the passing of such amendments by the Board of Directors. Quorum for such a meeting shall be one-fifth (1/5) of the membership.

**Section Two.** The Board of Directors shall not have the power to amend this Constitution in such a manner as to permit any Director or member of YIRA to receive any profit from the operation or dissolution of YIRA.

## **Article IX: Dissolution Provisions**

**Section One.** Upon dissolution, the assets of YIRA shall be distributed to charitable, literary, or educational organizations.