



Swedish Organization  
for Global Health

# SOGH Internal Regulations

Date of 1st publication: September 12, 2019

Last update: January 25, 2021

## Glossary

<i>global health</i>	<i>collaborative trans-national research and action for promoting health for all (Beaglehole &amp; Bonita, Global Health Action 2010)</i>
<i>planetary health</i>	<i>the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems—political, economic, and social—that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish. Put simply, planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends (final report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, 2015)</i>

## Chapter 1. The Organization

### § 1 Name, place and signatories

- i. The name of the organization is “Swedish Organization for Global Health”, in short SOGH.
- ii. The organization is based in Stockholm.
- iii. The board is the signatory (firmatecknare) for the organization as a whole and it will appoint specific signatories (firmatecknare) who will have access to the bank account in all forms.

### § 2 Values and Principles

- i. The organization formulates and implements its own policies independently of government policies or actions. SOGH is a non-governmental organization.
- ii. Provision of humanitarian assistance must be impartial and not based on nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political point of view. It must be based on need alone.
- iii. All members of the organization work for non-profit making, in as much as they are

prohibited from distributing a monetary leftover to its own organization members.

iv. The main values of the organization include but is not limited to:

- providing support to health projects decreasing health inequities (in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3).
- supporting women’s rights, especially in low-income countries (LIC) (in line with SDG 5).
- supporting young people’s talent and giving them the opportunity to thrive as future global health leaders (in line with SDG target 4.4).
- considering and reducing our environmental impact and being part of the global movement fighting the climate and ecological emergency we are facing (in line with SDG 13).
- being transparent and accountable in relation to all our partners (in line with SDG 17) and donors.

v. The mission of the organization is to

- improve quality and accessibility of health care and health promotion through local and international partnerships,
- increase the knowledge of global and planetary health in the general public.
- channel youth passion and talent offering the opportunity to gain experience within the global health sector.

### § 3 Fiscal year

- i. The period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **Chapter 2: Board**

### § 1 Composition

- i. The board is composed of some permanent positions (director, financial manager, communications manager, project manager(s)) and some variable ones, which might change upon organization’s needs and human resources.

### §2 The commitments of the board

- i. In between the annual meetings the board is the decision making organ. The board is responsible for leading the executive work of the organization
  - appoint formal positions in the organization
  - decide on working groups and team constellations
  - appoint the signatories
  - compile an activity report for the annual meeting.
- ii. The board should at all times follow the regulations and the executive work should always be

in line with the principles and values of the organization.

#### §4 Regulations for board decision-making

- i. The board is granted decision-making power if half of the board members are present.
- ii. The board convenes when the director decides so or when half of the board members wish so.
- iii. When taking decisions, the simple majority principle is used. If the number of votes are equal the director has the casting vote.
- iv. All official board meetings, where decisions are made, should be formally recorded in the minutes and made public to the members of the organization.
- v. The director and vice-director are permitted to make executive decisions which can be withdrawn by the board.

### **Chapter 3: Accountant**

#### § 1 Election of accountant

- i. The annual meeting will preferably elect the accountant, however in the case that it does not, the board can elect an accountant. The accountant is not eligible for the board.

#### § 2 The rights of the accountant

- i. Continuous access to the organization's budget, formal records of meeting minutes and other official papers.
- ii. The accountant has the right to be present at all board meetings.

#### § 3 The commitments of the accountant

- i. The accountant shall do the organizational audit.
- ii. The purpose of the audit is to control that the board is handling the funds of the organization according to the regulations.
- iii. The accountant should present a short summary of the organizational audit on the annual meeting.

### **Chapter 4: The organs of the organization**

#### § 1 Decision making

- i. The highest decision-making organ is the annual meeting.
- ii. In between annual meetings, the board is the decision-making organ.

## § 2 Executive

- i. The board is the executive organ of the organization.

## § 3 Advisory board

- i. The members of the advisory board are chosen by the board.
- ii. The members of the advisory board will act as advisors for the board.

## **Chapter 5: Membership**

### § 1 Obtaining membership

- i. Membership is open to anyone who is willing to support the organization's values and principles.
- ii. Membership is open to anyone regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, religion or political point of view.

### § 2 Withdrawal of membership

- i. If a member wants to withdraw her/his/their membership, she/he/they should notify the board.
- ii. Membership can be withdrawn from a member if she/he/they goes against the organization's values and principles or, in other ways, harms the organization.

## **Chapter 6: The annual meeting**

### § 1 Guidelines

- i. The board decides when and where the annual meeting will take place, however, preferably during the autumn. This information should be made available at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting.
- ii. It is the director and vice-director's responsibility to make the agenda for the meeting available to all board members at least one week before the meeting.
- iii. All board members should be present at the annual meeting.
- iv. All the present board members have the right to one vote each. The vote is personal and can not be delegated to another member.
- v. The annual meeting should be formally recorded in the minutes and made public after the meeting.

### § 2 Rules of decision making and eligibility

- i. Decisions are made through voting and the simple majority principle.
- ii. In case the simple majority cannot be reached, the chair of the meeting has the casting vote.

iii. Any member of the organization is eligible for the board.

### § 3 Agenda

- i. The following should be on the agenda and formally recorded in the minutes:
  1. Election of a chair, secretary and, at least, one adjuster for the meeting.
  2. Determination of the correct following of the guidelines for the meeting.
  3. Determination of the agenda.
  4. Activity report of the fiscal year
  5. Summary of organizational audit
  6. Election of board members and accountant if needed.
  7. Regulation changes or clarifications.
  8. Overview of the budget.
  9. Overview of the project(s).
  10. Other topics presented by the board.
  11. Questions/topics presented by the board members.

### § 4 Extra annual meeting

- i. The board can set up an extra annual meeting in case of difficulties with setting up the new board or other executive challenges.
- iii. The extra annual meeting follows the same guidelines as an ordinary board meeting (though § 3, 4-9 does not have to be followed).

## **Chapter 7: Changing of the regulations**

### § 1 Permission

- i. Changes in the regulations can only be done at an annual meeting, following the guidelines for the annual meeting.
- ii. The changes must have been presented and discussed in the previous annual meeting.

## **Chapter 8: Resolution of the organization**

### § 1 Rules

- i. The decision of resolution of the organization can only be made at an annual meeting.
- ii. The funds still present in the organization will be either distributed to ongoing partner projects or they will be donated to another non-profit organization. No funds should be kept by any member of SOGH.