

## Rules of the Asia Pacific Greens Network (APGN)

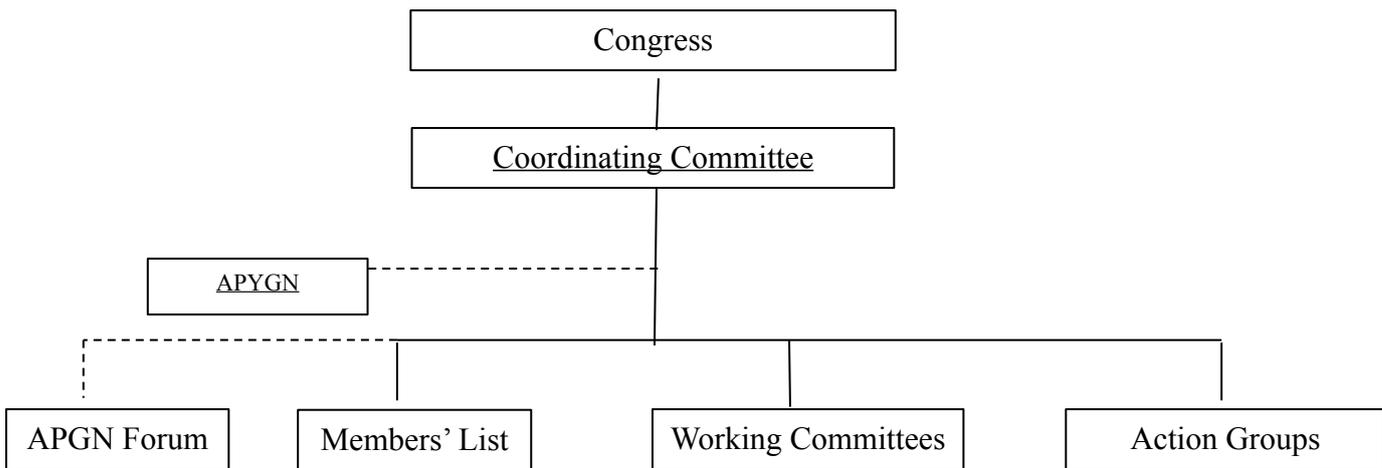
### Section A: The Aims of the APGN

The Asia Pacific Greens Network (APGN) is a network of Green Parties and movements in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also one of the four regional federations of the Global Greens.

#### *1. Aims*

- 1.1. To strengthen the networking of the Asia-Pacific Green parties and green-oriented groups
- 1.2. To co-operate towards the implementation of the Global Greens Charter
- 1.3. To participate in the Global Greens

### Section B: The APGN Organisational Structure



The APGN will operate at the following five levels:

- **The Congress** - an event held every five years (or more frequently if finances permit)
- **The APGN Co-ordination Committee (APGCC)** – a smaller body which meets regularly, generally by telephone or internet.
- **The APGN Working Committees** – permanent working committees for members to be involved in the regular operations of the APGN - and **Action Groups (AG)** - which will be campaign or regionally based
- **The APGN Members' Network** – this is a consultative and dialogue mechanism among the general membership of the APGN utilizing an electronic mailing list with the same delegate composition as the Congress
- **An APGN forum** – an email list which all green-minded people in the region can join.

This structure does not prevent other developments such as regional conferences, campaign groups, task groups etc. These will, however, be started from within the structure described above.

Working as a strategic partner of the APGN is the Asia Pacific Young Greens Network (APYGN).

#### *2. The Congress*

- 2.1. The Congress will meet at least once every five years (earlier if finances permit).
- 2.2. The Congress is the highest decision-making body. It will be expected to approve a Strategic Plan for the next period, make necessary changes to the rules, and adopt resolutions and/or policies.
- 2.3. The Congress will also hold elections for the APGCC and the representatives from the APGN federation to the Global Greens Co-ordination and any other official positions as required in the rules.

- 2.4. All elections will be held using the system of single transferable vote (optional preferential).
- 2.5. Each country with one or more full member organisations is entitled to three voting delegates; if there is more than one full member organisation in a country, they will negotiate among themselves how their entitlement is shared.
- 2.6. Delegates may nominate proxies to participate and vote on their behalf.
- 2.7. The Congress will operate by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, a two-thirds majority of voting delegates (not including abstentions) is required to pass any motion.
- 2.8. A quorum for decisions at the Congress will be 60% of the number of delegates attending the Congress.

### **3. *The APGN Co-ordination Committee (APGCC)***

- 3.1. The APGCC will be made up of seven people, all of whom will be elected from the full member organizations. At least three of these must be women, and one a person of 35 years of age or less, elected at each Congress. (The size of the committee will be increased by one to eight if this proves necessary to meet both the gender and age requirements in a particular ballot).
- 3.2. No more than two people from any one country can be elected to this body.
- 3.3. Congress delegates will be asked to take regional distribution into account when casting their votes.
- 3.4. Only members of organisations which have full membership status in the APGN are eligible to be elected in the ballot described in 3.1
- 3.5. An extra position, either an eighth or ninth, will be for a member of an Associate Membership organisation. This member will be elected in a separate ballot in which both full member organizations and associate member organizations can vote. For this ballot only associate membership organizations will be treated in the same way as full membership organisations. This additional committee member will not have decisions making / voting rights on the Committee.

#### *Roles of the APGCC*

- 3.6. The role of the APGCC will be to support the APGN and promote the implementation of the Global Greens Charter in the Asia-Pacific region, through activities including working to:
  - (a) Facilitate information exchange and networking, including the keeping of up-to-date membership and contact lists
  - (b) Strengthen the linkages between the member organisations
  - (c) Make statements on behalf of the APGN in line with the principles of the Global Greens Charter and declarations/resolutions agreed at APGN Congress
  - (d) Establish and oversee WORKING COMMITTEES for members to be involved in the regular operations of the APGN including a Membership Panel whose task is to consider membership applications and reviews and Action Groups which will be campaign or regional based
  - (e) Identify, encourage and support organisations which are in the process of establishing themselves as Green Parties or organisations that would qualify for any level of membership
  - (f) Manage APGN funds and provide annual account statements to the membership
  - (g) Assume overall responsibility for the web-pages and email lists of the APGN
  - (h) Consider issues referred to the APGN by the Global Greens Coordination (GGC) or which are on the agenda of a forthcoming GGC meeting
  - (i) Draw up yearly operational plans for the APGN consistent with the five year Strategic Plan and approve such plans after consultation with the Members' Network
  - (j) Select the time and place for the next APGN Congress and establish its organising committee
  - (k) Prepare a draft Strategic Plan before each Congress
  - (l) Ensure that member organisations are kept informed of its activities
  - (m) Draw up standing orders for its own meetings, and those of the Membership Panel, other Working Committees, and Action Groups
  - (n) Carry out fund-raising activities after consultation with the Member's Network
  - (o) Set up an APGN Secretariat, if resources permit, after consultation with the Member's Network
  - (p) organise and chair business meetings at the general APGN Congress

### *Positions in the APGCC*

- 3.7. The APGCC will choose, from within its membership:
- A Convenor (responsible for ensuring meetings are held as required, and for communication on the work of the APGCC to the member organisations)
  - A Secretary (responsible for keeping records of meetings and decisions and for communication with outside bodies).
  - A Treasurer (responsible for safe keeping the funds of the APGN and all financial records of the organization)
- It may also decide to create positions such as Auditor, Treasurer, Campaign Organisers, and others as appropriate.

### *APGCC Decision Making*

- 3.8. The APGCC will operate by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached and the matter is urgent, a two-thirds majority of members present (not including abstentions) is required.
- 3.9. The APGCC will generally meet and make decisions electronically (by phone link-up, Skype, e-group etc)
- 3.10. A quorum of the APGCC will be two-thirds of its current membership.
- 3.11. Any proposal involving the external release of a statement or support of an external campaign must be agreed by consensus rather than by a vote. Non-urgent proposals of this type will be referred to the Members' Network for a period of consultation before being determined.
- 3.12. The APGCC will not issue statements or take other actions which contradict or are inconsistent with the Global Greens Charter or with prevailing decisions from previous Congresses.

### *Resignations and non-attendance*

- 3.13. The APGCC may co-opt from the member organisations a person to replace another member who has resigned, or is temporarily unavailable, or to fill a vacancy left unfilled after the Congress elections. The replacement must conform to Rules 3.1 and 3.2.
- 3.14. Any member of the APGCC who has been inactive for three months and/or failed to attend two successive meetings, and who does not provide a satisfactory explanation within a week of a request to do so, can be deemed to have resigned by a consensus decision of the remaining members

## **4. Working Committees**

### *The Membership Panel*

- 4.1. The APGCC will appoint a permanent sub-group of at least three people to consider membership applications and membership reviews.
- 4.2. The panel will have a convenor, who preferably will be a member of the APGCC itself. Other panelists can be co-opted from organisations that have full membership of the APGN. The APGCC will take into account the issues of gender equity, regional and age distribution in appointing this panel.
- 4.3. The Membership Panel must proceed by consensus. Where the Membership Panel cannot reach consensus, the alternative recommendations and reasons will be referred to the APGCC for decision.
- 4.4. The Membership Panel will submit its recommendations to the APGCC for ratification.

### *Other Working Committees*

- 4.5. The APGCC will appoint Working Committees with at least three members each to mobilize members to support regular operational functions of the APGN such as Resource Management, Advocacy and Media etc. and act as recommendatory body to the APGNCC for proposed policies and programs of the APGN
- 4.6. Each Committee will have a convenor, who preferably will be a member of the APGCC itself. Other Committee members can be co-opted from organisations that have full or associate membership of the APGN. The APGCC will take into account the issues of gender equity, regional and age distribution in appointing this committee
- 4.7. Every Committee must proceed by consensus. Where the Committee cannot reach consensus, the alternative recommendations and reasons will be referred to the APGCC for decision.
- 4.8. Each Committee will submit its policy and program recommendations to the APGCC for ratification.

## **5. Action Groups**

- 5.1. Action Groups may be established by a Congress, or by the APGCC acting on a request from member organizations, to campaign on specific issues.
- 5.2. Members of these groups may be drawn from any Full or Associate Member organisation, or from outside these organisations if approved by the APGCC. At least one representative of the APGCC should be included where possible
- 5.3. Action groups must not issue public statements, but may propose statements for consideration by the APGCC to issue on behalf of the APGN.

## **6. The Members' Network**

- 6.1. The Members' Network will be an email list for full members of the APGN
- 6.2. Each country with one or more full member organisations is entitled to three representatives on this list; if there is more than one full member organisation in a country, they will negotiate among themselves how their entitlement is shared.
- 6.3. The Members' Network will:
  - (a) Consider the yearly operational plan for the APGN, as drafted by the APGCC, and provide feedback to the APGCC
  - (b) Provide a forum for information exchange, both between member organisation, and with the bodies of the APGN and the Global Greens
  - (c) Provide member organisations with a forum for raising issues and discussing matters which arise from time to time
  - (d) Provide feedback to the APGCC on issues under consideration by that body
- 6.4. The Members' Network is a consultative rather than a decision making body.

## **7. The Global Greens Co-ordination (GGC)**

The APGN is entitled to three full representatives on the Global Greens Coordination (the decision-making body of the Global Greens). The APGN is also entitled to appoint three alternate representatives to act as substitutes for the three full representatives if they are unable to attend meetings.

- 7.1. Elections for the three full representatives will take place at each APGN Congress, with the term of office to be until the next Congress.
- 7.2. The election will be conducted by the same method as the APGCC ballot
- 7.3. At least one of the three representatives must be a woman.
- 7.4. Only members of organisations which have full membership status in the APGN are eligible to be elected to these positions.
- 7.5. The alternate delegates will be appointed by the APGCC from amongst its members
- 7.6. Any person can hold a position both on the APGCC and the GGC.
- 7.7. The APGN representatives on the GGC may be requested (as a group or individually) to attend particular APGCC meetings where business relating to the GGC is on the agenda.
- 7.8. The APGCC can promote one of the alternate representatives to a full GGC representative if required.

## **8. The Asia Pacific Young Greens Network (APYGN)**

- 8.1. This group is an official sectoral arm of the APGN to ensure youth representation in the APGN processes.
- 8.2. A proportion of the annual budget and other resources of the APGN shall be dedicated to support the operations, program and participation of the APYGN.

## **Section C: APGN Membership**

### ***9. Applications for Membership***

- 9.1. There will be three classes of membership of the APGN: Full members, Associate members, and Friends of the APGN. The criteria for each membership class are listed in Table 1 (below).
- 9.2. Any organisation may apply for membership by submitting the following information:
  - (a) Constitution, rules of association or equivalent, including the ratification date.
  - (b) A description of the organisation's membership and activities.
  - (c) The most recent financial statement, preferably audited.
  - (d) Other supporting information, such as groups or individuals who could be consulted about the organisation and its activities.
  - (e) A declaration, signed by the chairperson/convener, that the organisation is independent of economic interests, and State, religious and ethnic organisations.
  - (f) Contact details, including where possible email, web page, phone, postal address.
  - (g) To qualify for full or associate membership, all documents (or a summary thereof where appropriate) must be provided in English with a signed declaration to the effect that they are accurate translations.
- 9.3. The Membership Panel will assess the information provided by each applicant and make their recommendation to the APGCC who will make the final decision.
- 9.4. Organisations which do not fully meet the criteria or which do not wish to apply for full membership may be accepted as Associate Members or as Friends of the APGN.
- 9.5. The rights and the obligations of members of each type are shown in Table 2 (below)
- 9.6. Where possible, a decision will be made within three months of receiving the application on whether the organisation will be approved as a Full Member, Associate Member, a Friend of the APGN, or be refused.

### ***10. Membership Review***

- 10.1. One year prior to each Congress, the Membership Panel will set up a review process to ascertain if the status of existing members has changed. Each affiliated organisation (including Associate Members and Friends of the APGN) will be required to participate.
- 10.2. Each organisation will be asked to submit information demonstrating the current state of the organisation.
- 10.3. Organisations which do not respond to such a request within three months will be considered to have disaffiliated from the APGN unless an extension is granted
- 10.4. The Membership Panel will consider the current status of each affiliated organisation and recommend that their status remain unchanged, class of membership amended, or that they should no longer be considered as members.
- 10.5. The recommendations of the Membership Panel will be considered by the APGCC in the same manner as for new membership applications.
- 10.6. The APGCC may also initiate a review of an affiliate's status at any time if there is evidence that their situation has significantly changed, or that the group has acted contrary to its obligations to the APGN. The membership panel will consider this evidence, and make recommendations to the APGCC that –
  - the class of membership of the organisation remain the same **or**
  - the class of membership of the organisation be amended, **or**
  - the organisation be suspended from the APGN until it has taken appropriate remedial action, **or**
  - the organisation be disaffiliated from the APGNThe APGCC will make a decision about the recommendations, and send a written report of its decision and reasons to all APGN member organisations.

**Table 1 - Criteria that Membership Applications must Satisfy.**

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Criteria for membership</b>
<b>Full</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit all documents (a) to (g) as in Rule 9.2</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the documents are true and accurate</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Abides by the Global Greens Charter</li> <li>(b) Is actively involved in parliamentary politics (where democratic structures and processes exist) and grass roots politics</li> <li>(c) Welcomes and involves women and men as active and equal participants</li> <li>(d) Is open to all ethnic, religious and other minorities</li> <li>(e) Operates in a democratic and open manner with clear Rules and Procedures</li> <li>(f) Is financially honest, open and accountable and their financial statement provides evidence to this effect</li> <li>(g) Will abide by the rules of the APGN</li> <li>(h) Will not bring the APGN into disrepute.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Associate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit as a minimum documents: (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) as in Rule 9.2</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the documents are true and accurate</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Abides by the Global Greens Charter</li> <li>(b) Is actively involved in green politics at either the parliamentary or grassroots levels</li> <li>(c) Welcomes and involves women and men as active and equal participants</li> <li>(d) Is open to all ethnic, religious and other minorities</li> <li>(e) Operates in a democratic and open manner</li> <li>(f) Is financially honest, open and accountable as far as can be assessed with the available evidence.</li> <li>(g) Will abide by the rules of the APGN</li> <li>(h) Will not bring the APGN into disrepute.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Friends</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit as a minimum, documents (b), (d) (e) and (f), as in Rule 9.2 (in English if possible).</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the documents are true and accurate</li> <li>• Satisfy the APGCC (with advice from the Membership Panel) that the organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Abides by the Global Greens Charter</li> <li>(b) Has goals and activities that are consistent with those of the APGN</li> <li>(c) Welcomes and involves women and men as active and equal participants</li> <li>(d) Is open to all ethnic, religious and other minorities, where relevant</li> <li>(e) Operates in a democratic and open manner</li> <li>(f) Is financially honest, open and accountable as far as can be assessed with the available evidence.</li> <li>(g) Will abide by the rules of the APGN which are relevant for their Friendship status</li> <li>(h) Will not bring the APGN into disrepute.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2 - Rights and Obligations of Membership Types**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Decision Making</b>	<b>Funding Priority</b>	<b>Obligation</b>
<b>Full</b>	All avenues, including representation on Members' Network	Full rights of decision-making (as per the rules)	High	Abide by rules
				Adhere to the Global Greens charter
				Not bring APGN into disrepute
<b>Associate</b>	Participation in APGN forum	Right to be consulted on APGN decisions where appropriate and possible	Medium	Abide by rules
		Speaking rights at APGN and Global Greens meetings at the discretion of the meeting		Adhere to the Global Greens charter
				Not bring APGN into disrepute
<b>Friends</b>	Participation in APGN forum	No speaking rights at global level. No speaking rights at AP level but a full member delegate may act as an intermediary to convey the group's message. This condition may be amended by a request from the organising committee or facilitator of the meeting, with the consent of the meeting	Low	Abide by rules
				Adhere to the Global Greens charter
				Not bring APGN into disrepute