

The following Constitution was confirmed at the Ninth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, held at St. Andrews, Scotland, August 1955, and, as amended, at San Francisco, California, USA in August 1979

C O N S T I T U T I O N

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE, hereinafter called the Union.

II. OBJECTS

The objects of this organization shall be to stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war, as these causes are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. Specifically, towards the realization of these objects, the Union favours the raising of public revenues by taxes and rates upon the value of land apart from improvements in order to secure the economic rent for the community and the abolition of taxes, tariffs or imposts of every sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be given to all persons, irrespective of sex, race or nationality, who shall in good faith sign a written declaration of adherence to the objects of the Union, and who pay such fees or dues as may be required,

and affiliation shall be open to all organizations which are in agreement with the objects of the Union and pay such fees as may be required.

IV. HEADQUARTERS

The general offices of the Union shall be in London, England, or at such other place as the Union may determine.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The governing body of the Union shall be an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Deputy President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, an Assistant General Secretary, and not more than twenty other members of the Union, together with such other members (if any) as may be co-opted as hereinafter provided.

VI. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot at each International Conference of the Union, and shall hold office until the next International Conference is held and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled by the remaining members of that Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt six additional members, who shall have like powers as directly elected members of the Committee.

VII. NOMINATIONS

A member of the Union may within three months of the date fixed for the holding of a Conference nominate any other member for any office to be filled by such Conference or for members of

the Executive Committee, but such nomination to be valid shall reach the General Secretary in writing at least ten days before the date set for such Conference. Such nomination shall be seconded in writing by one or more other members. The General Secretary shall cause an official ballot to be prepared for the Conference bearing in print the names of the various persons nominated for any office or for the position of member of the Executive Committee; the names to appear on the ballot papers in alphabetical order followed by the name of the country represented by the nominee. Except by consent of at least two-thirds of the Conference Members voting, no names shall be added to the official ballot save those nominated in the manner stated. Voting may be by such method as the Executive Committee shall determine.

VIII. POWERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, in the interim between Conferences, shall have the same powers as the members of the Union in Conference assembled, but shall have no power to alter the Constitution of the Union. The Committee may from time to time appoint its own Chairman and make bye-laws and rules not inconsistent with this Constitution. The Executive shall have the power to appoint a President between conferences in the event of this position falling vacant and the Deputy President being unable to fill it.

IX. QUORUM

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least five members. No person shall have more than one vote except the Chairman who shall have a deliberative in addition to a casting vote. A member of the

Executive Committee unable to attend any meeting of the Committee may appoint a deputy, who shall be a member of the Union, to attend in his place and may vote on his behalf.

The quorum at a meeting of a Conference shall consist of at least twenty members representing at least three nations or Dominions. Each Affiliated organisation may be represented by such number of delegates as the Executive Committee may decide, and each such delegate must become a duly qualified member of the Conference. No person shall be entitled to more than one vote.

X. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

At least six months' notice shall be given of International Conferences of the Union, and at least five weeks' notice by post or two weeks' notice by telegram of meetings of the Executive Committee, indicating in general terms the business to be transacted: provided, however, that it shall be lawful for an Executive Committee meeting to be held during the period of a conference or within one week thereafter on notice given to members present.

An Executive Committee meeting may be called by the President or General Secretary, or upon requisition by five members of the Executive Committee. The length of time of notice shall be computed from the date of dispatch. No meeting shall be invalidated by reason of the non-receipt of notice.

XI. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The members of the Union shall meet in Conference at such times or places as the Executive Committee shall determine.

XII. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FINANCE

Every member of the Union shall pay an annual minimum subscription of two pounds sterling, or the approximate equivalent thereof in money other than British denomination, exclusive of such Conference fees as the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, fix and determine upon. But the Executive Committee, nevertheless, shall be empowered, in the interest of increasing the funds of the Union, to authorise classes of members, such as ordinary members, annual members, sustaining members, and life members, and fix the dues payable by members in each of such classes at such figure as may, in the discretion of the Executive Committee, seem advisable. In addition to membership and Conference fees, the Executive Committee may raise funds for the support of the activities of the Union in such manner as in its discretion may seem best.

XIII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may not be altered or amended except at an International Conference of the Union, and then only if notice of a proposed amendment shall have been received by the General Secretary at least ten days before the date set for such Conference. Copies of any proposed amendments must be supplied to members present at the Conference at least twenty-four hours before such amendment is considered. A proposed amendment shall require for its adoption the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon at a Conference meeting: provided, however, that any alteration of Articles I and II shall require a favourable vote of at least three-quarters of the members registered as attending such Conference.

XIV. TAKING EFFECT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution takes effect by virtue of its adoption and confirmation by the International Conference held at St. Andrews, Scotland, 1955 and amended in San Francisco, California, USA August 1979.

The GEORGIST JOURNAL

Joint journal of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade and of the Henry George Institute. Edited by Robert Clancy and published quarterly. Sent free to all members of the International Union. News, views and articles welcomed.