

World Association for Public Opinion Research: WAPOR Latinoamérica Chapter

Constitution (Proposed Version) (Approved at the 15th of March, 2019)

Article I - Name

Section 1. The name of the Association shall be the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) Latinoamérica and is constituted as the regional chapter of WAPOR international.

Article II - Purposes and Functions

Section 1. Public Opinion is a critical force in the configuration and transformation of the society. Survey research conducted and disseminated appropriately provides the population with a tool to measure opinions and attitudes in order to have their voice heard. In light of this mission, the Association shall:

- a) promote in each country of Latin America the right to conduct and publish scientific research on the opinions, attitudes and behaviors of the people and how they are influenced by various factors;
- b) promote the knowledge and application of scientific methods in this objective;
- c) assist and promote the development and publication of public opinion research in the World
- d) promote international cooperation and exchange among academic and commercial researchers, journalists and political actors, as well as between the representatives of the different scientific disciplines.

Section 2. Functions and activities of WAPOR Latinoamérica include, but are not limited to: organizing and sponsoring meetings and publications, encouraging high professional standards, promoting improved research techniques, informing journalists about the appropriate forms of publishing poll results, observing the democratic process and use of polls in elections as well as important social trends, promoting personnel training, coordinating international polls, and maintaining close relations with other research agencies. Such agencies include the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), the European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR), other international and Latin American professional associations of researchers, other regional chapters of WAPOR, as well as the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), other organizations of the United Nations and private international organizations.

Article III - Membership

Section 1.

- a) Membership in the Association shall be as individual persons, not as representatives of organizations, nations, or other groups.
- b) WAPOR Latinoamérica membership is obtained through WAPOR International. Members of WAPOR Latinoamérica may pay an additional amount to also be members of WAPOR International if they choose to do so.

Section 2. Membership shall be open to all persons who have an interest in the conduct, use, or teaching of scientific opinion and attitude surveys, social science research, media or communications research, market research, or related activities who subscribe to and follow the WAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. Only individual chapter members in good standing shall have the right to vote and hold office in WAPOR LA.

Section 3. Membership in the Association shall not be denied on the basis of ethnicity, sex, age, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.

Section 4. Dues for the WAPOR Latinoamérica regional chapter shall be fixed by the WAPOR Latinoamérica Council in collaboration with the WAPOR Council. They shall be payable on or after January 1, the beginning of the fiscal year, upon notification by the WAPOR Office, in a manner to be determined by the WAPOR Council in collaboration with the WAPOR Latinoamérica Council. Members whose dues are not paid by March 1 of each year shall be deemed not in good standing and ineligible to vote or to hold office. The WAPOR Office shall notify all members in arrears on March 30 that dues must be paid within 30 days or they will be dropped from the rolls. The Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR shall be responsible for monitoring this operation.

Article IV - Council, Executive Committee, Secretariat

Section 1. WAPOR Latinoamérica shall have an Executive Council. The Council shall consist of the following members:

- a. President
- b. Vice president/president elect
- c. Past president
- d. Three members, elected by secret ballot at the Conference membership meeting who will have submitted their candidacy by email at the latest one month before the Conference.
- e. An ex-president of honor (former presidents). Nominated by the president and approved by the Council.
- f. The president of the Catterberg Awards. Nominated by the president and approved by the Council.
- g. Officers in the WAPOR Latinoamérica Chapter must be paid-up members of WAPOR.

Section 2. The role of the Council will be:

- a. Take decisions between Conferences by vote.
- b. Advise the President and vice-president.
- c. Serve as a deliberation body.
- d. Assume responsibilities for areas of decision.
- e. Supervise the organization and development of the Conferences.
- f. Prepare and distribute the accounts of WAPOR Latinoamérica in cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR at the Conference membership meeting.
- g. Represent WAPOR Latinoamérica in the different official events and activities.

Section 3 The president will be responsible for the organization of the Conference following his/her election in his/her country. The president acts as Secretary-Treasurer. However, he/she can delegate this responsibility to another member of the Council.

Section 4. The vice-president becomes the future president of WAPOR Latinoamérica at the end of the mandate of the current president. Candidates for vice-president, whether members of the Council or not, have to submit their candidacy at the latest one month before the Conference.

Section 5. The vice-president commits himself/herself to organize the following Conference in the next two years in his country.

Section 6. The Executive Council will meet as often as the president deems it necessary. The President shall convene the Council at least once a year, and in the same manner, decide to submit to the Council matters of interest. The President must send the minutes of the Council meetings to the membership meeting at the Conference and to Council members in a timely manner.

Section 7. Council may act on all routine matters on its own authority. It is at all times responsible to the membership for its actions, any of which may be revoked by a majority decision of the members in the membership meeting at the Conference.

Section 8. The President shall be responsible for fulfilling the purposes of WAPOR Latinoamérica as its chief representative. S/He shall preside at Council, and serve as the official representative of WAPOR Latinoamérica in its relations with other organizations and the public. S/He shall report from time to time to the membership about his or her activities and the activities of the Council at least once a year. The President shall act as Secretary-Treasurer for WAPOR Latinoamérica.

Section 9. The Vice President/President-Elect shall act as the President's deputy. S/He shall automatically become President the following term. S/He shall take over the Presidency if the office becomes vacant.

Section 10. The Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR international shall be responsible for collecting the dues and other revenues of WAPOR Latinoamérica, administering the funds of WAPOR Latinoamérica and for performing such other duties as the Council may prescribe. S/He shall prepare and distribute to the president of WAPOR Latinoamérica and to all members of the Council a complete annual report. This report will be presented at each Conference in order for the members to be aware of the financial situation and approve the report.

Section 11. WAPOR international will be responsible for the nomination process for the election of the members of the Council and of the vice-president/president elect at the membership meeting at the Conference as specified in Article V, Section 3, and following. Communications to the members for this purpose will be sent through the president of WAPOR Latinoamérica.

Section 12. The term of office for all Council members shall be two years, with the exception of the honorific president and the president of the Catterberg Awards, which will be four years.

Section 13. Council members shall be chosen in such a way that, as much as possible, all geographical sections and other interests among the membership shall have fair and

equitable representation. Specifically, the President and the Vice President/ President-Elect should not be residents of the same country.

Section 14. All vacancies, except the Presidency, occurring between elections shall be appointed by the President, giving first consideration to the next highest ranking candidates at the time of election. At the next regular election, a candidate shall be elected to fill each unexpired or regular term.

Article V - Voting and Conduct of Business

Section 1. Decisions by Membership and Council shall be by a majority of votes. In order to give all members equal voice in WAPOR Latinoamérica, regardless of their geographical location or ability to attend meetings, voting on all elections and matters of basic policy may be carried out by email or other electronic means of communication. Questions raised by two or more Council members as matter of basic policy and supported by any ten full members in good standing must be referred to a vote by the full membership. In case of a tie in the full membership vote, the Council shall cast the deciding vote on the side favored by a majority of Council members.

Section 2. All membership referendums, including elections and other questions, shall be conducted by the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International upon written request from the Council. The Council and the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International shall conduct the call for nominations and the election in a manner that allows for a maximum participation of members and protection of privacy.

Section 3. All the members of the Council according to section 1 a, b, c and d will be elected by the Membership meeting at the Conference by secret vote, except the president, who will be the previous vice-president/president elected following the current president's mandate. The members who will not be able to come to the Conference will be able to vote before the Conference by email according to the procedure described in the next section.

Section 4. For the annual election of Council members, a call for nominations must be sent out to all full members two months before the Conference in a separate mailing by the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International (by email or other electronic means of communication). Giving first consideration to the suggestions by membership and taking into account the eligibility, availability, and qualifications of the candidates suggested and the necessary geographical distribution, the Electoral Committee, defined in the next section, shall prepare a list of nominations at least one month before the Conference.

Section 5. The Past President appoints the members of the Electoral Committee and chairs the committee. The Electoral Committee will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five appointed members. The committee composition shall reflect the diversity of WAPOR Latinoamérica membership. Members of the Electoral Committee cannot be candidates in the election. The Electoral Committee shall prepare a list of nominations at the latest one month before the beginning of the conference, advertised to all members on the Web and be email.

Section 6. The vote takes place at the membership meeting in a secret ballot. The members of WAPOR Latinoamérica who cannot be present at the Conference may send their vote by email to the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International until one day before the beginning of the Conference and in favor of one the candidates on the list of nominations which will be made public one month before the beginning of the Conference.

The Past President, as Chair of the Electoral committee, will inform the candidates (winners and losers) and the membership meeting of the combined results of the electronic vote and the vote of the members present at the meeting. The announcement will be made public in the next Bulletin, on the WAPOR Latinoamérica Web page and be email.

Article VI - Treasury

Section 1. At the end of the Council's mandate, the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International, or if not possible, the president of WAPOR Latinoamérica, shall submit to the Council an annual report that includes the balance of WAPOR Latinoamérica's financial situation. The financial year of WAPOR Latinoamérica shall coincide with the financial year of WAPOR.

Section 2. The expenditure of funds from WAPOR Latinoamérica's Treasury to meet routine expenses, such as clerical costs, stationery, postage, and other budget commitments, shall be supervised by the Secretary-Treasurer of WAPOR International. All other financial commitments must be considered matters of basic policy and submitted to the Council of WAPOR Latinoamérica. The Council shall decide which of these matters must be subject to approval by the full membership.

Section 3. The Council may, by majority of the vote, reserve money from the account of WAPOR Latinoamérica as a Special Fund for the organization of the Conference once the availability of funds is known.

Article VII. Language.

Section 1. The official languages of WAPOR Latinoamérica shall be Spanish, Portuguese and English. The official version of the Constitution is the Spanish one.

Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by actions of the Council of WAPOR Latinoamérica, or petition of any twenty members. Amendments may be made by the vote of a majority of all members who participate in a referendum by email or other electronic means of and whose votes are received within six weeks of the ballot's submission, provided that at least 25% of members participate in the referendum.

Article IX - Establishment and Termination

Section 1. This Constitution shall take effect upon its approval **in a referendum by the majority of members** on the list when the ballot will take place. It will be supervised

by WAPOR International. It shall supersede all previous WAPOR Latinoamérica agreements.

Section 2. The election of the Council members using the procedures described in the preceding sections will be conducted for the first time in the Conference which will take place in Salamanca, Spain, in 2020. Until then, temporarily, the Council comprises the current designated President, Vice-President, past President, current honorific President, and current president of the Catterberg Awards. The acting members of the Council when the Constitution will be adopted will carry on their duties until the end of the Conference following the first election, with the exception of the current Vice-president who will become president and the current President who will become Past President.