

The Function of Constituencies

1. Introduction

This document outlines the functions and responsibilities of constituencies within the Global Student Forum (GSF). It establishes the role of constituency representatives in the Steering Committee, details the processes for constituency selection of representatives, and sets criteria for constituency governance models.

2. Role and Responsibilities of Constituencies

Each constituency within GSF is responsible for representing the interests and perspectives of its member organizations in the broader governance structure of GSF. The core responsibilities of constituencies include:

- Facilitating internal discussions among members to determine shared priorities and concerns.
- Engaging in regular communication with the Steering Committee representative.
- Contributing to policy discussions, statements, and advocacy initiatives undertaken by GSF.
- Supporting the implementation of GSF initiatives within their networks.
- Ensuring transparent decision-making processes and fostering democratic participation among members.

3. Representation in the Steering Committee

Each constituency elects or appoints a representative to serve as their voice in the GSF Steering Committee. This representative:

- Acts as the primary liaison between the constituency and the Steering Committee.
- Is responsible for bringing forward the views, needs, and interests of their constituency.
- Participates in Steering Committee meetings and contributes to decision-making processes.
- Reports back to their constituency on the outcomes of Steering Committee discussions and decisions.
- Facilitates engagement between their constituency and GSF activities.

4. Selection or Election of Steering Committee Representatives

Each constituency determines its method of selecting or electing its Steering Committee representative. The selection process must adhere to the following criteria:

- It must be democratic, transparent, and inclusive of all members within the constituency.
- It must ensure that the selected representative is accountable to the constituency.
- The constituency must document and submit their selection process to GSF for review.
- Any changes to the selection process must be communicated to GSF in a timely manner.

5. Approval and Submission of Constituency Models

Each constituency must determine and document its internal governance model, including:

- The selection process for its Steering Committee representative.
- Mechanisms for internal consultation and decision-making.
- Accountability measures for ensuring representation aligns with member interests.

These models must be submitted to GSF for review and approval. While each constituency retains flexibility in structuring its governance, the submitted model must meet the minimum criteria outlined in this document.

6. Compliance and Review

- Constituencies are expected to uphold the principles of transparency, democracy, and accountability in their operations.
- The Steering Committee reserves the right to review constituency models to ensure alignment with GSF's governance framework.
- Constituencies that fail to adhere to these guidelines may be required to revise their governance structures or risk losing their representation in the Steering Committee.