1. MSF is an international movement supported by national entities.

Médecins Sans Frontières is an international movement with one charter and one mission: to contribute to the health, safety and dignity of populations in danger.

In support of this mission, the national sections decided to change the format of the International Council (IC). Recognising the need for a dual system of authority, the Boards of the national sections ratified this decision and will delegate authority to the IC in certain areas, as defined in paragraph 6 below.

2. All MSF national entities share the common designation of “section”.

Each national entity of MSF will be described as a section. Furthermore, when speaking of a national entity, the designation to be used both in the field and in the sections shall be “Médecins Sans Frontières”, coupled with the local translation where necessary. If it is required to distinguish one national entity from among the others, the designation shall take the following form: e.g. Médecins Sans Frontières - Greek Section.

3. A functional partnership between sections.

All sections are to serve the whole movement.

Nevertheless, “functional partnerships”, composed by grouping sections together, assist with the development of all sections and facilitate international functioning (for example, coherence in the allocation of funds to missions, sharing human resources in the field, etc.).

These functional partnerships are established when necessary on the request of the IC as transitory functional bodies. As interaction between sections from different groupings will be encouraged and will increase, other mechanisms for collaboration will have to be worked out.

4. The decision to create any new section is the exclusive domain of the IC.

Only the 19 existing sections are currently entitled to the name MSF. The IC will be responsible for defining a coherent and future-oriented policy in regard to the creation of new sections or any “privileged alliances”. An IC working group will prepare this
policy. The IC will be specifically concerned with extending the socio-geographic and cultural base of the movement.

5. Operationality of MSF sections.

All MSF sections must actively participate in MSF’s actions in favour of populations in danger according to their capacities and abilities.

Operationality is defined as the power to make decisions with regard to MSF missions. In emergencies or complex crises, there should be a very limited number of decision making centres.

The operational project needs to be clearly defined and should remain limited as regard the type of operations, the number of operational centres, the means employed and the support structures. Existing structures shall be “denationalised”; complementarity, coordination and the sharing of structures will have to be improved.

The International Council has the authority to decide about all those matters linked to operationality.


The International Council

The IC will focus on producing an international blueprint (“architecture”) for the movement and defining an individual identity. The IC will be both a platform and a network for discussions and decision-making.

Composition
The Presidents of the 19 sections (objective: within two years, all Presidents must be elected by their associations).

Presidents may not be replaced by substitutes at IC meetings.

Authority
- To safeguard the “identity” of MSF (its mission, core values, type of activities and international norms) and take decisions on how this should evolve.
- To give final approval to the international blueprint for MSF, including the ET concept, international human resource management, internal communications, a common fund for private resources, etc.
- To take decisions in regard to common long-term advocacy/witnessing themes (such as landmines, forgotten wars and populations, exclusion, misuse of humanitarian aid, etc.) and international advocacy projects of strategic importance (such as “Populations in Danger”).
To take decisions on issues concerning MSF's expansion policy (increasing the number of sections) and on the division of certain basic tasks (number of operational centres). The IC shall have a specific responsibility to control the use of the MSF name. It delegates exclusive ownership of the MSF name to the International Office.

To give advice in regard to the annual plans of the sections, in particular of the operational centres, as these affect MSF's identity and the international blueprint for the movement.

**Voting procedure**
- One section, one vote.
- Decisions require a significant majority (to be defined, but at least a two-thirds majority)

**Practical organisation**
- A three-day meeting will take place once a year. To start off, a preliminary meeting will take place this autumn ('97), followed by the first annual meeting in March '98.
- A number of thematic working groups will be active during the year, led by the President of the IC and the Director of the International Office.

*• Restricted Committee*

**Authority**
The Restricted Committee (RC) will have a dual authority. It will:
- closely follow up on the execution of international projects approved by the IC and the proper functioning of agreed international mechanisms, and will intervene if necessary through consultations with the Executive Directors;
- be an international arbiter in exceptional cases where there is a serious international disagreement between Executive Directors in regard to either MSF's operational response in major crises or MSF's advocacy/witnessing response.

The RC is also responsible for preparing the agenda for IC meetings.

**Composition**
- The Presidents of six to eight sections.
- The International President will propose the names to the IC for approval by a two-thirds majority.

**Voting procedure**
Decisions will be taken on the basis of a simple majority and the President will have a second deciding vote if votes are split.

**Organisation**
A two- to three-day meeting will be held twice a year and ad hoc meetings or ad hoc consultations will be organised where necessary. Executive Directors, Directors of Operations and other management team members may be invited to attend.
The President of the International Council and Restricted Committee

**Role and authority:**
The President will represent the international movement to the outside world; s/he should inspire the international development of MSF; s/he will have the right and the duty to take initiatives within the mandate of the IC and the RC.

**Nomination**
The President will be elected by the IC for a two-year period on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

S/he will try to be present at Board meetings of the sections.

S/he will be financially compensated by the IC.

- **The Executive Committee**

**Composition:**
The Executive Committee will be composed initially of the Executive Directors of current operational centres, but the composition will evolve in line with the operational evolution of MSF. The Director of the International Office will be a member of this group.

**Organisation:**
The group will decide its own working procedures.

**Role and authority:**
The Executive Directors will form the keystone of international co-ordination.

- They will be responsible for the preparation and execution of the decisions of the IC and RC.
- They will inform the RC of any serious delays in the execution of those decisions or of any serious disagreements with possible consequences for the MSF identity or the MSF international blueprint.
- They constitute the first point of arbitration in case of disagreement on operational issues (interventions and advocacy issues).

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