



Constitution of

**Pan-Arab Union of
Neurological Societies**

(PAUNS)



Established in Cairo
in 1975

Article 1: Name

This Organization known as The Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies has been established in Cairo on May 22, 1975. It includes all Arab countries presented in The Arab League.

Article 2: Objectives

Section 1

It shall be the purpose of the Union to advance the development of the Basic and Clinical Neurosciences by:

- a) The dissemination of information and scientific knowledge in the neurosciences.
- b) Stimulating, encouraging and developing programmes of clinical and basic neurological research throughout the Arab countries.
- c) Providing means for a closer professional and personal appreciation of neurologists and neurological scientists throughout the Arab countries.

Section 2

The primary means of achieving these purposes shall be:

- a) The sponsorship of research groups and international symposia in clinical neurology and the neurological sciences at appropriate times.
- b) The organization of a main congress of PAUNS every two years.
- c) The contribution to active international neurological congresses special WCN, EFNS, ENS.
- d) The assistance in exchange arrangements for junior staff between different Arab countries when possible.
- e) Establishment of a programme of travel grants in aid for young clinical neurologists and neurological scientists to attend international congresses and symposia.
- f) Establishment of collaborative research projects through its Research Committee and the Research Groups and corporate members represented upon it which coordinate research activities in fields of relevance to the neurological sciences.

- g) Establishment of liaison with other health organizations and assemblies for the execution of these objectives.
- h) The establishment of registers, repositories and research centers for research and teaching materials in the neurological sciences.
- i) The establishment and publication of an official journal or bulletin and newsletter of the Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies.

Section 3

The Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies may engage in all activities for the advancement of clinical neurology and neurological Sciences in all Arab countries and worldwide.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1

The membership of this Union is formed by national neurological societies or equivalent bodies throughout all Arab countries. Such a body should have at least five members in order to be eligible for full membership of this Union.

Section 2

A national neurological society may become a member of the Union by a two-thirds affirmative vote by the "Council of Delegates" after a letter of application and credentials of the society have been reviewed and approved by the "Council of Delegates". A society elected to membership by the "Council of Delegates" becomes a member society of the Union after this Constitution is accepted and ratified by the society memberships.

Section 3

Any member society may withdraw from the Union one year after formal notification is sent to the Officers of the Union.

Article 4: Council of Delegates

Section 1

The government of the Union shall be vested in the "Council of Delegates" which shall be the voting body of the Union membership. The Council of Delegates shall meet in regular sessions every two years at the time of the main PAUNS congress and at such other times as required.

Section 2

The Council of Delegates will be formed from the Delegates of each country and the previous presidents of the PAUNS, who will be considered honorary members with full voting rights.

Section 3

- a) Delegates of the Union shall be appointed or elected from the society members of the various Arab countries. Each country shall appoint one official voting delegate. In addition each country may appoint one associate Delegate who can attend meetings of the council of Delegates.
- b) The term of office of the Delegates for each country shall be four years.

Section 4

- a) The Council of delegates shall exercise general supervision over the administration of all business and financial affairs of the Union.
- b) The Council of Delegates shall elect the Council of officers of the Union.
- c) The Council of Delegates can never be held without the council of officers.

Article 5: Council of Officers

Section 1

The Council of officers of the Union is formed of: a President, four Vice Presidents, Secretary General and a Treasurer. The treasurer should be from the same country of the President.

Section 2

The Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council of Delegates. They shall all serve a term of four years except for the President and Treasurer; only 2 years. The President can not be re-elected. Each member of the Council of Officers has a vote in the council Delegates. If the voting result is equal (50%), the president of PAUNS is considered to have 2 votes.

Section 3

Any vacancy occurring among the Officers during a term of office shall be filled by the individual of a next highest vote after the elected council members. If the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President with the highest number of votes (First Vice President) shall assume the responsibilities of acting President until the next regular meeting of the Council of Delegates.

Section 4

The President shall be Chairman and shall preside at the meeting of the Council of Delegates. The President shall also have authority to establish ad-hoc committees in order to undertake specific tasks on behalf of the Union and to appoint member to such committees.

Section 5

In the absence of the President at any of the Council of Delegates, the First Vice-President shall preside in his absence, or if the First Vice-President is absent the next highest voted Vice President shall preside. In the case the vice presidents are also absent, the Chair shall be taken by the Secretary General then the Treasurer.

Section 6

The Secretary General shall be responsible for keeping the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Delegates and correspondence of the Union and keeping its records.

Section 7

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds for the Union. At the conclusion of each financial year, the Treasurer shall draw up a complete and detailed statement of the Union's financial status. This should be approved by the President.

Article 6: Standing Committees

The Union shall have the following Standing Committees: Research Committee and Nominating Committee.

Section 1

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of ten (10) members, preferably from different regions. The President will chair this Committee. The members of the nominating committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council of Officers.

Section 2

Research Committee: Different Research Committees will be formed by the President and to be approved by the Council of Officers. The Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies maintains through its Research Committee various Research Groups for the study of neurological diseases and neurological sciences, the purpose of which is to correlate research and exchange views on an international scale; to serve as a liaison body between researchers and to facilitate contacts between neurologists of all countries with a view to an exchange of information and of study material; and from time to time, to organize meetings (symposia or seminars) on subjects of topical interest proposed by the various research groups.

Whenever the establishment of a new Research Group is suggested, it has to be presented to the President of the Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Societies who will consult various National Delegates from different researchers who are particularly concerned with that problem. From the

names proposed, the President shall select ten to fifteen members, a chairman and co-chairman for each research committee.

Section 3

Any vacancies occurring in the chair of any of these committees shall be filled by the President.

Article 7: Quorum

At all meetings of the Council of Officers. Council of Delegates, Nominating Committee, and Research Committee, one half, if the President is present, and two-thirds, if the President is not present, of the members will be considered a quorum. In addition, a delegate or committee member not able to be present may be represented by an associate or may nominate another delegate (only in the council of delegates) to vote on his behalf. Each member of the Council of Delegates may hold a proxy from only one other member. A majority vote is required for affirmative action except in the case of application for membership, which requires a two-thirds vote of the entire membership.

Article 8: Ratification of Constitution

This constitution shall require for its ratification an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the Council of Delegates, each member voting according to the decision taken by the national Society (Societies) represented by him.

The Constitution shall become effective upon such ratification.

Article 9: Amendment

Section 1

Any number of Delegates representing over 10% of the whole membership may propose an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 2

The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the President. It shall be considered for vote to the Council of Delegates.

Section 3

Ratification of the proposed amendment may then be accomplished by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the total membership of the Council of Delegates.