

MISSION STATEMENT and GOALS OF THE WORLD VALUES SURVEY ASSOCIATION

A non-profit Association seated in Stockholm, Sweden

This Association is founded in order to help social scientists and policy makers better understand worldviews and changes that are taking place in the beliefs, values and motivations of people throughout the world. In order to do so, the members of this Association will carry out representative national surveys of the values and beliefs of people on a global scale. Ideally, it would be desirable to include every country in the world in these surveys, and we will strive to include the widest possible range of societies among those surveyed. The members of this Association will analyse and interpret the data resulting from these surveys and disseminate the results to social scientists, policy makers and the general public in order to inform them of the changes that are occurring and their implications, and to contribute to a better understanding of how these changes are likely to impact on social, economic and political life. The task of interpreting the results and disseminating the findings can only be done effectively if it is carried out by social scientists from throughout the world, representing a wide range of cultures and perspectives. Consequently, another important goal of this Association is to develop a world-wide network of social scientists who are interested in problems of social change; and to organise meetings and communications systems through which the participants in this project can work together in analysing the evidence that we jointly collect, sharing interpretations of the findings and discussing, criticising each others' interpretations and encouraging collaborative publications that draw on the combined insights of social scientists from all of the participating countries. A subsidiary goal of this network will be to disseminate state of the art methodology for design and analysis of social surveys, striving to ensure that the surveys carried out by this network will utilise the best available survey research techniques. The surveys carried out by this group will be designed with input from throughout the world, and the surveys in each country will be directed by participants from the given society, in order to ensure that the design and fieldwork are carried out with an inside understanding of the society being investigated.

The group that is now becoming formally organised as the World Values Survey Association has already carried out three waves of surveys in more than 60 societies on all six inhabited continents. The findings from these surveys indicate that changes are occurring in peoples' goals and motivations in many aspects of life, and suggest that these changes have an important impact on human behaviour and social life. This Association will build on this previous work, in order to monitor and analyse social change. The analysis of change requires time series data, and accordingly, the research carried out by this Association will replicate survey items that have proven to be effective indicators of important processes of change. This primary task will be supplemented by developing new indicators to improve our ability to understand social change, but because the basic research strategy of this group focuses on analysis of change, maintaining continuity of measurement tools will be crucial. The changes that concern us are operating on a global scale and can only be interpreted effectively in a global context. Consequently, we will develop and administer a common questionnaire designed for use throughout the world. We will encourage the exchange of ideas among participants sharing common interests on both a regional and world-wide scale, in order to develop a global network of social scientists.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE WORLD VALUES SURVEY ASSOCIATION

1. NAMES, LOCATION, AND GOAL

1.1 The name of the association is the World Values Survey Association (hereafter referred to as WVSA).

1.2 The seat of the WVSA shall be Stockholm, Sweden.

1.3 The aim of the WVSA is to help social scientists and policy makers better understand worldviews and changes that are taking place in the beliefs, values and motivations of people throughout the world. In order to do so, the members of the WVSA will carry out representative national surveys of the values and beliefs of people on a global scale. The WVSA is a non-profit association

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Membership in the WVSA is by invitation. Invitations to join the WVSA are issued by the Executive committee of the WVSA. The Executive committee has the responsibility once a year to inform the membership of the WVSA about who is receiving an invitation.

2.2 Each national group has the right to recruit as many members as it deems necessary, but each national group shall have one vote (one membership) when decisions are taken by the WVSA. All members of the WVSA are to sign the document agreeing to WVSA data sharing protocols, and a code of ethics. (See Appendix 1, provided by Neil Nevitte).

2.3 New Members: No new member shall be admitted until the Executive committee is satisfied of its intention and ability to participate in WVSA activities according to these Principles.

2.4 The Executive committee plans the expansion of the group and seeks collaboration in countries not yet represented in the study.

2.5 The Membership of any national group may be terminated by a two-thirds majority of the Executive committee. Membership will automatically lapse if the member fails to conduct a survey according to these Principles within the appropriate time period designated for a given wave of surveys, unless the Executive committee makes an exception in recognition of exceptional circumstances.

3 MEETINGS AND DECISION-MAKING

3.1 A General membership meeting shall be held at least once every two years.. At least one principle investigator from each participating country is to be invited to the General meeting. It is the responsibility of the Principle investigators to support the costs of their attendance unless other arrangements are made.

3.2 At the General membership meeting, each participating country shall be represented by at least one Principle investigator. Each national team appoints their representatives at the membership meeting.

3.3 Each participating country has one vote at the Genereral membership meeting. Each national group decides how the group shall vote.

3.4 At the General membership meeting, the following shall be decided:

- 1: A list of entitled voters
- 2: Signer of the minutes and counter of votes
- 3: Legitimacy of the annual meeting
- 4: The Executive Committee's rendering of accounts
- 5: The auditor's account
- 6: Balance sheet, incomes and expenditures
- 7: The financial responsibility of the Executive Committee absolved
- 8: Approval of expenditures
- 9: Election of members and deputies for the Executive Committee (if needed)

- 10: Election of members in the Scientific Advisory Board (if needed)
- 11: Election of auditors and auditor deputies (if needed)
- 12: Resolutions and remaining matters
- 3.5 All new members have the right to speak and be recognized at their first General membership meeting. Members have the right to vote at a general meeting only after they have delivered a dataset and satisfactory technical documentation to the WWSA archive. Voting is on the basis of one vote per participating country.
- 3.6 The administration of the Board of Directors and the accounts of the Association shall be examined annually by the elected auditors and deputy auditor. The auditors shall be appointed by the general meeting of the Association.
- 3.7 3.7 If there is no consensus upon a matter, a vote may be taken in which each national group has one vote. Decisions are by simple majority.
- 3.8 The secretariat may ask for votes on specific matters by mail, addressed to the national coordinators for each member institute
- 3.9 Motions and Quorum: Motions are carried at General membership meetings by a simple majority when quorum exists. A quorum exists when two-thirds of the membership representatives is present at the General meeting.

4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 4.1. The WWSA Foundation shall have an Executive committee consisting of no more than six persons.
- 4.2 The Executive committee will include the following officers: A President, a Vice President, a Secretary- General, a Treasurer, and no more than two members at large. The President shall provide strategic leadership and be spokesperson for the WWSA. After retirement, the founding president will remain an ex officio member of the Executive committee. The Secretary-General shall record and maintain minutes of meetings and decisions; circulate minutes and decisions.
- 4.3 Members of the Executive committee are voted into office by the voting membership of the WWSA at a General membership meeting. Each Executive committee member has a four year renewable term of office.
- 4.4. The Executive committee shall provide leadership and strategic planning for the WWSA, recruit new members, organize meetings and workshops, promote publications and dissemination of results and to raise funds for central functions and assist member groups in their fund-raising. It shall also coordinate each round of the WWSA data collection, including questionnaire design, data archiving and distribution and determine the timing of the next study. The executive committee will carry out these tasks in close consultation with a Scientific Advisory Committee..
- 4.5 A Scientific Advisory Committee consisting of at least 10 leading social scientists, representing all regions of the world, will be kept informed of all important activities of the executive committee, and will be consulted by the executive committee before major decisions are made. A founding Scientific Advisory Council will be appointed by the founding Executive committee; from then on, the members will be elected for renewable two year terms by the voting membership of the WWSA at general meetings.

5 FINANCE

- 5.1 The financial year for the WWSA is the calendar year.
- 5.2 The Executive committee shall give its financial account to the auditor no later than April 30th every year
- 5.3 The auditor shall give his statement no later than May 15th every year
- 5.4 Each national group is responsible for its own expenses.

6. DATA COLLECTION AND ARCHIVING

6.1 Every member agrees to field the WWSA questionnaire.

6.2 Technical specifications are considered part of the survey. Standard methodological specification as specified in Appendix 2.

6.3 Each national questionnaire is to be a translation from a standard questionnaire upon which the Group has agreed. The language of the standard questionnaire is American English. Proposals for "culturally equivalent" questions that deviate from the standard text in any significant way, can be submitted to the Executive committee and must be approved by the executive committee. Any such changes will be indicated in the documentation accompanying the survey dataset before they can be used.

6.4 Documented data files of each national group, together with technical details of the survey methods, are to be sent to the Data Archive no later than 3 months after fieldwork has been completed. Within the shortest feasible time, the Data Archive will then distribute a combined dataset containing the data from all surveys carried out at that point to all groups that have provided a national dataset, and will provide updated releases as new surveys are received.

6.5 The data collected in a given wave of surveys will be available ONLY to those groups who have contributed a dataset in that wave for a period of two years after the end of the time period designated for fieldwork. They will remain strictly under embargo until that period has expired, at which point they will be made available to the worldwide social science community and other users through the various survey data archives. For example, if the time designated for the next wave of fieldwork were to be designated as running from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006 all surveys must be carried out within this time period to be eligible for participation in that wave. These data would be distributed to WWSA groups that have provided a survey in that wave as quickly as practical and would be reserved exclusively for use by these WWSA groups within 2 years, in the example until December 31, 2008.

7 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

7.1 Proposals for amendments to this constitution must be signed by at least five voting members and submitted to the Executive Committee, who has to distribute the proposal to the members at least three months before the general Membership meeting. The amendment must be supported by a majority of two thirds.

7.2 If at a General meeting a decision is taken to dissolve the WWSA the meeting shall also decide on the disposition of the WWSA assets.

Appendix 1. Founding Officers, Executive Committee and Scientific Advisory Council:

In November, 2001, during the year before this constitution was adopted, a meeting of the WWS participants was held at Stellenbosch, South Africa at which the following officers and Executive Committee were elected. They will be retained as officers of this organization until the first elections are held under this constitution. The members of a Scientific Advisory Council (originally called a steering committee) were also elected at the meeting in Stellenbosch. They also will hold their posts until the first election held under this constitution. They are, respectively:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ronald Inglehart (Chairman), USA
Bi Puranen, Secretary General, Sweden

Thorleif Pettersson, Treasurer, Sweden
Juan Diez Nicholas, Spain,
Yilmaz Esmer, Turkey

Deputy:

Linda Guerrero, Philippines
Marta Lagos, Chile
Gaspar Munishi, Tanzania
Neil Nevitte, Canada
Sandeep Shastri, India
Christian Welzel, Germany

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Q.K. Ahmad, Bangladesh
Helmut Anheier, UK
Miquel Basanez, Mexico
Fares al-Braizat, Jordan
Marita Carballo, Argentina
Pham Minh Hac, Vietnam
Hennie Kotze, South Africa
Mansoor Moaddel, USA
Shen Mingming, China
Renata Siemienska, Poland
Omololu Soyombo, Nigeria
Toru Takahashi, Japan
Farooq Tanwir, Pakistan

Appendix 2. WVS CODE OF ETHICS

Code of Professional Ethics and Practices

We, the members of the World Values Survey Research Group, subscribe to the principles expressed in the following code. Our goals are to support sound and ethical practice in the conduct of public opinion research and in the use of such research for policy and decision-making in the public and private sectors, as well as to improve public understanding of opinion research methods and the proper use of opinion research results.

We pledge ourselves to maintain high standards of scientific competence and integrity in conducting, analyzing, and reporting our work in our relations with survey respondents, with those who use the research for decision-making purposes, and with the general public. We further pledge ourselves to reject all tasks or assignments that would require activities inconsistent with the principles of this code.

THE CODE

I. Principles of Professional Practice in the Conduct of Our Work

A. We shall exercise due care in developing research designs and survey instruments, and in collecting, processing, and analyzing data, taking all reasonable steps to assure the reliability and validity of results.

B. We shall describe our methods and findings accurately and in appropriate detail in all research reports, adhering to the standards for minimal disclosure specified in Section III.

C. If any of our work becomes the subject of a formal investigation of an alleged violation of this Code, undertaken with the approval of the WVS Executive Council, we shall provide additional information on the survey in such detail that a fellow survey practitioner would be able to conduct a professional evaluation of the survey.

II. Principles of Professional Responsibility

A. The Public:

1. If we become aware of the appearance in public of serious distortions of our research, we shall publicly disclose what is required to correct these distortions, including, as appropriate, a statement to the public media, legislative body, regulatory agency, or other appropriate group, in or before which the distorted findings were presented.

B. The Profession:

1. We recognize our responsibility to contribute to the science of public opinion research and to disseminate as freely as possible the ideas and findings which emerge from our research.

C. The Respondent:

1. We shall strive to avoid the use of practices or methods that may harm, humiliate, or seriously mislead survey respondents.

2. Unless the respondent waives confidentiality for specified uses, we shall hold as privileged and confidential all information that might identify a respondent with his or her responses. We shall also not disclose or use the names of respondents for non-research purposes unless the respondents grant us permission to do so.

III. Standard for Minimal Disclosure

Good professional practice imposes the obligation upon all public opinion researchers to include, in any report of research results, or to make available when that report is released, certain essential information about how the research was conducted. At a minimum, the following items should be disclosed:

1. Who sponsored the survey, and who conducted it.
2. The exact wording of questions asked, including the text of any preceding instruction or explanation to the interviewer or respondents that might reasonably be expected to affect the response.
3. A definition of the population under study, and a description of the sampling frame used to identify this population.
4. A description of the sample selection procedure, giving a clear indication of the method by which the respondents were selected by the researcher, or whether the respondents were entirely self-selected.
5. Size of samples and, if applicable, completion rates and information on eligibility criteria and screening procedures. The precise basis for the calculation of response rates.

6. A discussion of the precision of the findings, including, if appropriate, estimates of sampling error, and a description of any weighting or estimating procedures used.
7. Which results are based on parts of the sample, rather than on the total sample.
8. Method, location, and dates of data collection.

Appendix 3. WVS METHODOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Members of the World Values Association agree to the following methodological requirements. Any significant deviation from these criteria should be notified, documented and, eventually, approved, by the Executive Committee.

1. Surveys should be based on national representative samples of at least $N = 1,000$ individuals 18 years and over. Regional surveys, or those that are not really representative of the whole population 18 years and over (i.e., that represent urban population, literate population, major ethnic group, etc.) may be admitted by the Executive Committee in some special cases, but they will not be included in the aggregate data file, and will be distributed on separate files.
2. The sample will be selected as close as possible following probability (random) methods, and the sampling report will provide information on response rate, as developed in the Methodology Questionnaire attached to this Appendix.
3. The Executive Committee has to decide on which kinds of data gathering that will be accepted in each country.
4. National questionnaires in languages other than English will be accurate translations of the official English questionnaire. Whenever translations deviate from the original questionnaire (due to national expressions) it should be documented and reported to the Executive Committee.
5. Each country's data file will only be accepted by WVS if properly documented with the following:
 - Completed Methodology Questionnaire following the model attached at the end of this Appendix.
 - Report of questions omitted/added to the original official questionnaire.
 - Report of additional codes to any questions.
 - Report of country specific codes (religions, regions, languages, etc.).
 - Official demographic statistics at least on sex, age, education, urban-rural distribution that may be used to evaluate the representatives of the sample.
 - Weights used, if any.
 - Copy of the original country questionnaire (in its own language) either in paper, .pdf or machine readable format.
 - Co-operation with the Data Archive during the process of data cleaning of each country's data file.