

# SETAC

  

# Constitution

Original: 2001  
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## **SETAC CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I. Name**

1. The name of this organization shall be the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).
2. Care and diligence has been made to remove potential conflict between the SETAC Constitution and the SETAC By-Laws. Should any exist, it is SETAC's explicit intent that the Constitution will have primacy over the By-Laws.

### **Article II. Purpose**

1. The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) is a nonprofit, worldwide professional society established to provide a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study, analysis, and solution of environmental problems, management and regulation of natural resources, education, and research and development. SETAC is an open and democratic organization dealing with environmental sciences. SETAC operates in a broad social context, reflecting the needs of the environment and people and their interactions. Application of sound science plays a key role in this process.
2. SETAC's mission is to support the development of principles and practices for protection, enhancement and management of sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity.
3. SETAC facilitates and promulgates the translation of environmental science into policy.
4. Specific goals of the Society are:
  - a) To promote research, education, communication and training in the environmental sciences.
  - b) To promote the application of interdisciplinary environmental sciences in managing chemicals and other stressors.
  - c) To participate in scientific interpretation and communication of exposure to and effects of environmental stressors, ecological risk assessment/management, and solutions for global environmental problems.
  - d) To provide forums for communication and interactions among professionals on a multi-sector, interdisciplinary, and multinational basis on environmental issues.
  - e) To promote the development of principles and practices for sustainable environments, considering appropriate ecological, economic, and social aspects.

### **Article III. Membership**

1. The membership of SETAC shall consist of: Members, Associate Members, Senior Active Members, Emeritus Members, Student Members, Recent Graduate Members, Sustaining /Affiliate Members, and Global Partner/Global Affiliate Members as defined in the SETAC Constitution and By-laws ([http://www.setac.org/htdocs/files/SWC\\_const.pdf](http://www.setac.org/htdocs/files/SWC_const.pdf)). Membership in SETAC is renewed annually or every 3 years (multi-year option). Members, Emeritus Members, Associate Members, and Senior Active Members constitute the voting membership of the Society; Members and Emeritus Members may hold office within SETAC.
2. Members are qualified professionals who share the stated purpose of the Society and who have education, research or applied experience in environmental sciences, education and management.

3. Associate Members are persons who share the stated purpose of the Society and are engaged in activities leading towards meeting the education or experience requirements of a Member.
4. Senior Active members must have been a SETAC member in good standing before changing their status a minimum of 62 years of age, and not be fully employed.
5. Emeritus Members are those qualified voting members selected and so honored in recognition of their contribution to environmental sciences, education and management.
6. Students may be Members or Associate Members depending on their level of experience.
7. Sustaining Members are organizations, institutions, associations, foundations or individuals who wish to foster the purpose of the Society.
8. Affiliate Members are those individuals or non-profit organizations, institutions, foundations or associations concerned with the affairs and purpose of the Society.
9. Global Partner/Affiliate Members are for profit/not-for-profit organizations, institutions, foundations or associations concerned with the affairs and purpose of the Society
10. Membership in all of the above membership classes requires the payment of dues as determined by the SETAC World Council (SWC) and SWC Membership Committee. The requirements and benefits for each class of membership are defined in the By-Laws.
11. Additional categories of membership, or changes to existing categories of membership may be developed by the SWC Membership Committee and approved by the SWC.

#### **Article IV. Management and Elections**

1. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the membership through the SETAC World Council (SWC) in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution contains the core values and general structure of the Society. The By-Laws contain definitions and the operational procedures of the Society.
2. The SWC shall consist of fifteen (15) voting representatives with the goal of equal representation from government, business and academia. The SWC will include representatives from each Geographic Unit (GU), as defined in the By-Laws.
3. The SETAC Executive Director shall be appointed by, and serve at the discretion of, the SWC. The SETAC Executive Director will serve as an *ex-officio* member of the SWC without voting privileges.
4. Representatives should strive for consensus on all matters. In the absence of consensus, in order for a motion to be passed, at least two Geographic Units must be represented in the decisive vote.
5. Geographic Units with one or two voting representatives on the SWC shall ensure that the views of all sectors within their Geographic Unit are represented.
6. All members of SETAC may attend any governing body meeting, except executive sessions.
7. The SWC Representatives serve for a three (3) year term to be staggered so that normally no more than five (5) terms expire in any one (1) year.
8. The SWC shall be elected from the voting membership of each Geographic Unit so as to have approximately equal representation from government, business, and academia. The SWC representatives of the Geographic Units will include the officers of those GU's (SNA and SE) or members elected by the voting membership or governing body of the GU. The Officers of the SWC will be elected by the SWC from the membership of the SWC or from SETAC members in good standing that have previously served on the SWC.
9. The Officers of the SWC shall be four (4): President; Vice-President; Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.
10. The Vice-President shall be elected for a single term of one (1) year at the conclusion of which the Vice-President shall serve as President for one (1) year. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

11. If a vacancy, except that of President occurs between terms, the respective GU shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term. Should the post of President become vacant for any reason the Vice-President shall assume the post of President, serve the remainder of the term as Acting President, and succeed to the Presidency once his/her term as Acting President has terminated.

#### **Article V. Duties**

1. The duties of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer are those customarily performed by such officers, unless otherwise directed by the SWC. Detailed descriptions of duties are provided in the SETAC By-Laws.
2. The Officers of the SWC will provide day-to-day executive direction and guidance to the SWC including coordinating with the GUs on financial matters (e.g., SETAC budget preparation, allocation of membership dues), and exercising jurisdiction over financial gains.
3. The duties of the SWC shall be:
  - (i) To manage the business, functions, programs and activities of the Society;
  - (ii) To develop short-and-long-term strategic plans, establish policy and take such action as seems desirable and appropriate to promote the mission and objectives of the Society;
  - (iii) To approve new Geographic Units.
4. The duties of the SETAC Executive Director shall be determined by the SWC.

#### **Article VI. Quorum**

1. The quorum is ten (10) SWC representatives.

#### **Article VII. Amendment**

1. An amendment to the SETAC Constitution and By-laws may be proposed by the SWC or the voting membership of the Society. An amendment to the Constitution shall require a minimum of 30 days written notice and shall require approval of the voting membership. An amendment requires a simple majority (>50%) approval by those who vote. Amendments to the By-laws are approved by the SWC.

#### **Article VIII. Procedures**

1. Procedures and other items not specified in this Constitution or in the By-Laws or by action of the SWC will comply with the accepted norms of common courtesy and manners.

#### **Article IX. Termination/Dissolution of the SWC**

1. Termination of the SWC, for any cause, will result in responsibilities and resources being redistributed *pro rata* to the Geographic Units after all liabilities have been satisfied.
2. Dissolution of the Society, for any cause, shall follow the same procedure as Constitutional amendments and must be in accordance with the applicable regulations of the country of incorporation.
3. All funds and other assets of the Society, including any rights to funds, present or future, contingent or action, shall be irrevocable, assigned, and transferred to any successor society which has among its principal purposes the encouragement, development, and dissemination of knowledge in the environmental sciences, and is qualified as a not-for-profit

organization. Such activities or any amendments thereto need not be the only purpose of the successor society.

4. The selection of the successor society must be approved by ten (10) representatives of the SWC and at least two Geographic Units must be represented in the decisive vote. The successor society must be named in the SWC minutes and its articles of dissolution, but need not be named in the motion of the petition for dissolution.

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Guelph, ON, Canada