

**Swiss Association of Women Entrepreneurs
Verband Schweizer Unternehmerinnen
Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Suisses
Associazione Imprenditrici Svizzere**

● **Articles of Association**

Contents

1. Name and Registered Office	2
2. Character and Orientation	2
3. Aims and Purpose	2
4. Membership	2
5. Membership Fee	3
6. Bodies of the Association	3
7. General Meeting	3
8. Board and Rules of Procedure	3
9. Membership in «Les Femmes d'Entreprises Mondiales» (F.C.E.M.)	4
10. Auditing	4
11. Amendment of the Articles of Association, Dissolution	4
12. Applicable Law and Place of Jurisdiction	4
13. Entry into Force	4

● **1. Name and Registered Office**

Under the name Swiss Association of Women Entrepreneurs (VCHU) there exists an association within the meaning of Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code (SCC).

It is affiliated with «Les Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales» (F.C.E.M.).

The association has its registered office in 8001 Zurich.

The financial year is the calendar year.

● **2. Character and Orientation**

The Swiss Association of Women Entrepreneurs (VCHU) is a voluntary association of women engaged in entrepreneurial activity in Switzerland, which is committed to preserving the free-market order and free enterprise.

It is politically and denominationally independent. It does not pursue commercial purposes.

● **3. Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of the association are:

- to set out and represent the positions and concerns of women entrepreneurs vis-à-vis legislators, public authorities and the general public;
- to provide members with information that supports them in performing their professional duties and their duties beyond their own company;
- to nominate women entrepreneurs for honorary offices and functions in professional organisations and to support them in exercising these offices;
- to promote the advancement of women into senior positions in business;
- to advocate equal opportunities for women in all professional fields.

● **4. Membership**

A prerequisite for ordinary membership is that the applicant is engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

Members are natural persons or legal entities.

Membership is acquired by written application to the Board. The Board decides on admission.

Only ordinary members are entitled to vote.

Membership ends:

- a) upon death;
- b) if the conditions applicable to membership cease to be met;
- c) by voluntary declaration of withdrawal by the member. Such declaration must be made in writing and is possible only as at the end of a calendar year, subject to three months' notice;
- d) by exclusion; the Board decides on exclusion.

Members who have held the office of President for at least five years may be appointed Honorary President by the General Meeting in recognition of outstanding services.

- **5. Membership Fee**

Membership fees shall be determined by the Board and published on the Association's website. Members who resign or are expelled shall remain liable for membership fees until the end of the financial year. Resignation or expulsion shall not release a member from any outstanding financial or other obligations. To cover the costs incurred in fulfilling its tasks, the association levies a one-off admission fee and an annual membership fee.

- **6. Bodies of the Association**

The bodies of the association are:

- a) the General Meeting
- b) the Board

- **7. General Meeting**

At least one General Meeting shall be held in each financial year. It is convened in writing by resolution of the Board, giving at least 14 days' notice.

Upon written request by one fifth of the members, the Board must convene a General Meeting without delay. The members submitting the request must state the item of business to be discussed.

The General Meeting decides on:

- a) the election and discharge of the Board;
- b) the appointment of Honorary Presidents;
- c) the election of the Audit Committee;
- d) amendments to these Articles of Association;
- e) the dissolution of the association and the distribution of its assets.

Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the ordinary members present.

Minutes shall be kept of the General Meeting and of the resolutions passed; they shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and by the person keeping the minutes, and approved by the General Meeting.

- **8. Board and Rules of Procedure**

The Board consists of at least 3 and no more than 10 members. They are elected by the General Meeting for a term of 3 years in each case. Ordinary membership is a prerequisite for election. Re-election is permitted twice only; exceptions to this rule are possible where its application would result in more than 50% of the Board members being replaced.

The Board constitutes itself.

- **9. Membership in «Les Femmes d'Entreprises Mondiales» (F.C.E.M.)**

As a condition of its membership, the Swiss Association of Women Entrepreneurs (VCHU) recognises Article II of the Articles of F.C.E.M. as binding. This article defines the objectives and reads as follows (translation):

«Excluding any commercial purpose and any political or religious objectives, this association has the following tasks:

- a) to represent women entrepreneurs vis-à-vis the authorities and public and private institutions (organisations, associations) at national and international level, as well as vis-à-vis all other persons, in relation to general questions concerning the dual role of woman and entrepreneur;
- b) to ensure that the principle of «equal rights for women and men» is applied in accordance with the action programme drawn up periodically by the World Committee;
- c) to advocate the general rights and interests of women entrepreneurs and their enterprises;
- d) to make representations to the authorities to ensure that any general measure — insofar as it concerns commercial, industrial and craft businesses — is taken in the spirit of equality between men and women;
- e) to inform women entrepreneurs about the functions to which they have or will have access, to promote the candidacy of women entrepreneurs in professional associations and state organisations, and to keep them informed about current economic issues;
- f) to inform the members of the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs about general problems relating to their dual role as woman and entrepreneur.»

- **10. Auditing**

The General Meeting elects 1 auditor for a term of 2 years.

The auditor may not be a member of the Board but must be an ordinary member of the association.

- **11. Amendment of the Articles of Association, Dissolution**

An amendment to these Articles of Association may be resolved by the General Meeting with a three-quarters majority of the members present.

The same voting majority applies to a proposed dissolution of the association.

Amendments to the Articles of Association that are required as a result of a change in the law or of a legally binding court decision are made by the Board on its own initiative; it shall inform the members in writing without delay.

- **12. Applicable Law and Place of Jurisdiction**

The association and its Articles of Association are governed by Swiss law. The place of jurisdiction for disputes in connection with the affairs of the association is Zurich.

- **13. Entry into Force**

These Articles of Association entered into force upon the foundation of the association on 24 January 2002.

Revised version adopted by the General Meeting on 27 May 2013.

Amendment adopted by the General Meeting on 16 May 2022.

Amendment adopted by the General Meeting on 22 June 2026.

This English version is a translation for information purposes. In the event of any discrepancy, the German original of these Articles of Association shall prevail.