



**THE CONSTITUTION
OF
NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF
MULTICULTURAL COUNCILS
INCORPORATED**

P O Box 1409, Wellington, New Zealand.

Web site: <https://multiculturalnz.org.nz/>

The Constitution of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated.

SECTION 1 NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE

- 1.1 The name of the **society** shall be NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF MULTICULTURAL COUNCILS INCORPORATED. (using the brand name: Multicultural New Zealand)
- 1.2 Registered Office of the Council shall be situated in Wellington, and the postal address shall be P O Box 1409, Wellington.

SECTION 2 INTERPRETATION

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires or unless it is expressly provided, the words and phrases following have the meanings as follows:

- 2.1 “Constitution” means the constitution of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated aka Multicultural New Zealand (brand name).
- 2.2 “**NZFMC**”. “**MNZ**” or “Federation” means New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated.
- 2.3 “Incorporated” means duly registered with the Registrar of the Incorporated Societies of the Ministry of Economic Development under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.
- 2.4 “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Federation elected at an AGM pursuant to rule 24 and includes the Immediate Past President, who shall be an ex-officio member.
- 2.5 “Executive Council” means the Executive Committee and the delegates from member regional councils of the Federation.
- 2.6 “Members” means the members described in section four, and “Membership” has a corresponding meaning.
- 2.7 “Financial Year” means period commencing on the 1st day of April and ending on the 31st day of March the following year.
- 2.8 "AGM" means Annual General Meeting of **NZFMC aka MNZ** (brand name).
- 2.9 “SGM” means Special General Meeting of **NZFMC aka MNZ** (brand name).
- 2.10 “Objectives” means the objectives referred to in rule Section 3

- 2.11 “Subscription” means the subscription referred to in rule Section 9
- 2.12 “Standing Committees of the NZFMC” shall mean all committees already established by the Federation – or to be established in the future - under this constitution. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Standing Committees.

SECTION 3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Federation shall be:

- 3.1 To preserve, promote and safeguard the interests of its members.
- 3.2 To bring about a better understanding of all ethnic philosophies to New Zealanders.
- 3.3 To promote equal opportunity for ethnic groups in New Zealand, including effective participation in decision-making which affect them, and in sharing of community resources.
- 3.4 To promote and maintain unity and friendship among members and between members and other communities in New Zealand.
- 3.5 To support the development of regional **multicultural** councils and **multicultural** groups concerned with promoting social and cultural life within their communities and helping create greater awareness, sensitivity and pride within New Zealand society as a whole.
- 3.6 To promote the awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi amongst its members.
- 3.7 To promote joint action and cooperation among members on issues of common concern.
- 3.8 To promote the rights of ethnic people to enjoy equal opportunities and have equitable access to and an equitable share of, the resources which Central and Local Government manage on behalf of the communities.
- 3.9 To promote and preserve ethnic customs, languages, religions and cultures in New Zealand.
- 3.10 To participate actively in the development of a culturally pluralistic and socially cohesive society in New Zealand.
- 3.11 To monitor legislation and other measures including by-laws affecting the interests of the ethnic communities throughout New Zealand and take appropriate action.
- 3.12 To promote the recognition of New Zealand as a multicultural society.

- 3.13 To promote and encourage sports, cultural and social activities amongst the ethnic communities, and between them and others.
- 3.14 To strive for a Treaty based Multicultural Aotearoa / New Zealand by:
- a. raise consciousness among **all** communities of the needs, aspirations and status of the Tangata Whenua.
 - b. Embracing E Tu Whanau values
- 3.15 To conduct or perform all such acts and deeds as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objectives.

SECTION 4 MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Federation shall consist of:

4.1 All the regional councils affiliated to the NZFMC as specified in the Schedule of Members in Appendix "A" attached hereto. NZFMC may amend, add, or delete names of regional councils from the Schedule at any Council or a General Meeting by a two third majority vote.

4.2. Application for membership shall be made on the official **NZFMC** application form to the Secretary, **with a copy of the applicant council's constitution**. The Executive Committee shall decide on the minimum information required in the application.

4.3 The Executive Committee shall screen the application and then make its recommendation for approval **either at a General or a Council Meeting of the Federation**.

SECTION 5 VOTING RIGHTS

5.1 Only financial members shall have voting rights.

SECTION 6 EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS, DELEGATES OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

6.1 The Executive Committee shall have the powers to suspend any member, delegate of any member or Executive Committee member for breaching the rules or for misconduct, which in the opinion of the Federation justifies such suspension.

6.2 Prior to expelling or suspending a member the Federation shall give such member fourteen clear day notice of its intention to do so.

The Executive Committee shall inform the member, delegate of any member or executive committee member in writing of its intention to suspend and shall

invite the member, delegate of any member or executive committee member to explain their, his or her actions in person.

- 63 A member, a delegate of any member or executive committee member who has been suspended may be expelled from the Federation by a two third majority vote at a properly constituted meeting.
- 64 The member, delegate of any member or executive committee member shall be advised in writing of the final decision.

SECTION 7 EFFECT OF EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION

Any member expelled or suspended in accordance with these rules shall forfeit all its rights and privileges hereunder and if that member's representative is a member of the Executive Committee that representative shall be deemed to have vacated that office.

SECTION 8 RESIGNATION

- 8.1 A member may resign from the Federation by giving seven days' notice to the Secretary and upon expiration of that period such resignation shall be deemed to have been accepted by the Federation.
- 8.2 Any Regional Council which fails to send **its** delegate to **NZFMC** Council and General Meetings for three consecutive meetings without any valid written reason shall be deemed to have resigned from the Federation.
- 8.3 Any Executive Committee Member who wishes to resign from the Executive Committee may do so by writing to the Secretary or the President.
- 8.4 Any Executive Committee Member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings (includes Executive and Council Meetings) without any valid written reason shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

SECTION 9 SUBSCRIPTIONS

There shall be an annual subscription to be determined at the Annual General Meeting and to be paid by all members by no later than **30th July of that year.**

SECTION 10 ADDRESS FOR SERVICE.

- 10.1 Each member shall have an address (physical address or electronic mail address) to which all notices, correspondence and other matters to do with the Federation shall be sent.
- 10.2 Each member shall inform the Secretary in writing of that member's address for service and of any changes therein, at the time applying for membership, or

within seven days of the change, as the case may be.

SECTION 11 GENERAL MEETINGS

The Federation shall hold Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 12 REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- 121 Each member shall be entitled to have three representatives at general meetings and each representative shall be entitled to one vote.
- 122 Each Standing Committee may have three representatives at general meetings and one representative from each Standing Committee shall be entitled to one vote.
- 123 Failure to pay the subscriptions shall disentitle a member from participating in a general meeting.

SECTION 13 QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

The quorum for general meetings shall be fifty percent of the membership.

SECTION 14 VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- 141 Voting at general meetings shall be by show of hands unless the President considers that a secret ballot is necessary, or unless three members request a secret ballot.
- 142 Unless otherwise specified in these rules, members and their representatives may vote by proxy provided that the proxy is in writing and signed by an authorised Executive of the member Council.

SECTION 15 CASTING OF VOTE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

The President shall have an ordinary vote and in the event of a tie the casting vote at all general meetings.

SECTION 16 CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings shall be presided over by the President and conducted in accordance with the Federation's Standing Orders.

SECTION 17 TIME OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 30th June each year.

SECTION 18 NOTICE CONVENING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 18.1 Six clear weeks notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members showing the time, day and place of such meeting.
- 18.2 Notice of the meeting shall be in writing and shall be sent to each member's address for service.
- 18.3 In the absence of proof to the contrary, notice of the meeting shall be deemed to be served on the third working day following the day it is posted. For electronic mail, the transmission time shall be deemed as the time of service.
- 18.4 The Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting (and any Special General Meeting in between), nomination forms for election of Executive Committee for the following financial year and any other documents considered appropriate by the Executive Committee shall be sent with the notice 14 days before the date of the AGM.

SECTION 19 BUSINESS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall, in addition to the business laid before it by the Executive Committee in the Agenda, consider and adopt the following:

- a) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting.
- b) Annual Report for the immediately preceding financial year.
- c) Financial Report for the immediately preceding financial year.
- d) Any motion or resolution provided twenty-one (21) days notice of such motion or resolution has been given to the Secretary.
- e) Election of Executive Committee for the following year.
- f) Appointment of an Auditor.
- g) General Business.

SECTION 20 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 20.1 A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary on instructions from the Executive Committee or upon receipt by the Secretary of a requisition setting forth the object of such meeting and signed by one-third of the members.
- 20.2 Sub-rules (1), (2) and (3) of rule 18 shall apply to Special General Meetings except that the reference to "six" in sub-rule (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to "four".

203 No business other than that for which the Special General Meeting has been called shall be discussed at the meeting.

204 The quorum for a SGM shall be fifty percent of the financial members.

SECTION 21 WAIVER OF IRREGULARITY

21.1 A General Meeting shall not be deemed to be irregular or invalid on the ground that the procedures required by the Constitution for the calling of such meetings have not been strictly complied with if at such a meeting there is a quorum and a simple majority of the members present vote that the meeting is regular and valid.

21.2 Sub-rule (1) hereof shall not extend so as to regularise and validate defects relating to the calling of General Meetings to consider the matters referred to in rules 29, 47 and 48.

SECTION 22 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Federation shall have an Executive Council which shall consist of:

- a) The Executive Committee of the Federation.
- b) The Presidents or their nominees from their Executive Committee of the regional member councils.

SECTION 23 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Executive Council shall meet at such times and at such places as it considers appropriate.

SECTION 24 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24.1 The Executive Committee of the Federation shall consist of the following:

- a) President
- b) Vice President
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer.
- e) Ordinary Committee Members (OCM)
- f) Immediate Past President – shall be an ex-officio with no voting right; term of office only 1 year.

24.2 The Executive Committee shall be the governing authority of the Federation in the period between the Annual General Meetings.

24.3 The Executive Committee shall hold office until the date of the election of the new Executive Committee in accordance with the rule Section 25 or unless removed by the Federation pursuant to rule Section 26.

24.4 The Executive Committee may invite the Presidents of the Standing Committees to the Executive Committee meetings.

24.5 The Immediate Past President shall only hold his/her position for one year after the election giving guidance to the incoming President.

SECTION 25 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

25.1 The Executive Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

25.2 Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made on the form prescribed for that purpose by the Secretary.

25.3 Each candidate must be nominated by the member council, Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens Councils, to which the member belongs and the prescribed form must be signed by the President and Secretary and the candidate and duly completed and returned to the Secretary of the Federation as instructed. In the absence of the member council President or Secretary being unavailable due to being away from the district for a period of time, the nomination form shall be signed by the Vice President, Assistant Secretary or the Treasurer. If no nominations are received in this manner then nominations may be taken from the floor.

25.4 Voting for members of the Executive Committee shall be by secret ballot.

25.5 No more than one nomination shall be accepted from an affiliate member Regional Council.

25.6 Any candidate who wishes to stand for any position of the Executive Committee of the Federation must:

- a. have served as a member of the Executive Committee of a member Council for a minimum of three years
- b. be present at the AGM to contest the position.

SECTION 26 CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A member of the Executive Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his or her office if:

26.1 The regional council to which he or she belongs ceases to be a member of the Federation.

26.2 He or she ceases to be a member of a regional council which is a member of the Federation.

- 26.3 He or she dies.
- 26.4 He or she resigns.
- 26.5 He or she is removed from office in accordance with these rules.
- 26.6 He or she is an undischarged bankrupt.
- 26.7 He or she has been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 291 of the Crimes Act 1961 and has been sentenced within the last seven (7) years.
- 26.8 He or she is prohibited from being a director of, or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of an incorporated or unincorporated body under the companies Act 1993, the Securities Act 1978, the Securities Markets Act 1988, the Takeovers Act 1993.
- 26.9 He or She is subject to a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988 or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
- 26.10 He or She is absent from New Zealand for more than three months without the consent of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 27 MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 27.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and at such places as it considers appropriate.
- 27.2 Executive Committee meetings may be held via video or telephone conference, or other formats as the Executive Committee may decide;

SECTION 28 COMPLAINTS AGAINST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 28.1 A member may lodge a complaint against a member of the Executive Committee by delivering a signed written complaint to the Secretary or to the President if the complaint is against the Secretary.
- 28.2 The complaint must be considered by the Executive Council at its next meeting and the Executive Council shall make such decision on the complaint as it considers fit.

SECTION 29 VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

- 29.1 A member of the Executive Committee may be removed by a vote of no confidence at a **General Meeting**.

29.2 The member of the Executive Committee concerned and the Secretary or the President – as applicable - shall be served with a motion of no confidence fourteen clear days before the date of the **General Meeting**.

29.3 The motion of no confidence shall state the ground(s) upon which it is brought.

SECTION 30 RESTRICTION ON VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

A motion of no confidence against a member of the Executive Committee shall not be moved within three months of such a motion having been previously moved against that member.

SECTION 31 DUTIES OF PRESIDENT

31.1 The President shall uphold the objectives of the Federation.

31.2 Chair all meetings of the Federation, Executive Council and the Executive Committee.

31.3 Represent the Federation in its dealings with others, and be the Federation's spokesperson on matters requiring public comment.

31.4 Consult the Executive Committee on major decisions.

SECTION 32 DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENT

32.1 The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of the President's duties.

32.2 Shall act in the absence of the President.

SECTION 33 DUTIES OF SECRETARY

33.1 To record minutes and the business of all General Meetings, all the Executive Council and Executive Committee meetings and present such minutes at the next subsequent appropriate meetings.

33.2 To conduct and attend to all correspondence on behalf of the Federation unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

33.3 To keep in safe custody all documents belonging to the Federation apart from those required by these rules to be kept by the Treasurer.

33.4 To call meetings of the Federation and of the Executive Council and Executive Committee and give due notice of such meetings and of the business to be

transacted at such meetings.

- 335 To keep an up to date register of current members of the Federation and their addresses for service.
- 336 To carry out any other duties entrusted to the Secretary by the Federation, the Executive Council or the Executive Committee.
- 337 To carry out all other duties specifically imposed upon the Secretary by these rules.

SECTION 34 DUTIES OF TREASURER.

- 34.1 To receive and have charge of all monies and to disburse the same under the direction of the Executive Committee or any working committee duly appointed by the Federation or the Executive Council.
- 34.2 To keep full and accurate accounts and to report the same to each regular meeting of the Federation. To collect all funds, donations, contributions and subscriptions and to deposit the same as soon as practicable and at the latest within ten days of receipt of the same to the credit of the Federation at its authorized Bank.
- 34.3 To keep an up to date Fixed Assets Register of the Federation and to keep the same together with all books of accounts in safe custody.
- 34.4 To carry out any other duties imposed upon the Treasurer by the Federation, the Executive Council or the Executive Committee.
- 34.5 To prepare and present to the Executive Committee the Annual Financial Statements for auditing.
- 34.6 To present audited financial accounts and report to the Annual General Meeting.

**SECTION 35 ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
SUBCOMMITTEES AND CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS**

- 35.1 The chairpersons of the 4 Special Councils (Seniors, Women's, Youth and Business) will be invited to become ex-officio ordinary committee members (OCMs) as per Section 24.1.
- 35.2 OCMs will support and assist the Executive Committee members with constitutional responsibilities.
- 35.3 The Executive Committee may appoint subcommittees for whatever purpose it deems fit.
- 35.4 The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to

subcommittees.

- 35.5 The Executive Committee shall have the power to dissolve any subcommittees and to remove any co-opted member, as it deems fit.

SECTION 36 VACANCY IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 36.01 In the event of any vacancy arising in the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a suitable person selected from the financial member Councils or from the members of the Executive Committee. The person appointed shall be on an acting capacity until the next AGM.

SECTION 37 INDEMNITY

- 37.01 The Executive Committee and any member or person acting on the Executive Committee's authority shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Federation in respect of any claims made against, or liability incurred by, the Committee, member or person in relation to any legal proceeding to which the Federation is a part provided that the Committee, member or person has acted in a bona fide manner and in accordance with these rules.

SECTION 38 BANK ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

- 38.1 The Federation shall open and maintain at least one Bank Account.
- 38.2** The Account shall be styled the New Zealand Federation of **Multicultural** Councils Incorporated Administration Account.
- 38.3 The Administration Account shall be funded by subscriptions, donations specifically designated to that account and any funds raised by the Federation specifically for that account.
- 38.4 The Administration account shall be used to meet all expenses connected with the administration of the Federation.
- 38.5 Any additional Account shall be styled the New Zealand Federation of **Multicultural** Councils Incorporated Trust Projects Account.
- 38.6 The Trust Projects Account shall be funded from donations not specifically designated to the Administration Account, grants received for the purpose of promoting the objectives of the Federation and projects organised by the Federation and designated for the Trust Projects Account.
- 38.7 The Trust Projects Account shall be used to promote the objectives of the Federation.

SECTION 39 PAYMENTS TO BE SUPPORTED BY RECEIPTS

- 39.1 All payments made must be supported by receipts unless a receipt is unable to be obtained in which event the payment must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- 39.2 The Executive Committee must approve all payments.
- 39.3 Payments will be made by a majority vote in the Executive Committee, should there be a difference of opinion but all such payments must be supported by relevant invoices. No individual Executive member may hold back a payment.

SECTION 40 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 40.1 A Member may at any time make a written request to the Society for information held by the Society.
- 40.2 The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.
- 40.3.1 The Society must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request:
 - a. provide the information, OR
 - b. agree to provide the information within a specified period, OR
 - c. agree to provide the information within a specified period if the Member pays a reasonable charge to the Society (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, OR
 - d. refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

SECTION 41 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 41.1 A dispute is a disagreement or conflict involving the Society and/or its Members in relation to specific allegations set out below.
- 41.2 The disagreement or conflict may be between any of the following persons:
 - a. 2 or more Members.

- b. 1 or more Members and the Society.
- c. 1 or more Members and 1 or more Officers.
- d. 2 or more Officers.
- e. 1 or more Officers and the Society.
- f. 1 or more Members or Officers and the Society.

41.3 The disagreement or conflict relates to any of the following allegations:

- a. a Member or an Officer has engaged in misconduct.
- b. a Member or an Officer has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act.
- c. the Society has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act.
- d. a Member's rights or interests as a Member have been damaged or Member's rights or interests generally have been damaged.
- e. a Member or an Officer or the Society may make a complaint by giving to the Committee (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing.

41.4 The complainant raising a dispute, and the Committee, must consider and discuss whether a dispute may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation, arbitration, or a tikanga-based practice.

41.5 Investigating and determining dispute

- a. The Society must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a complaint made in accordance with its Constitution, ensure that the dispute is investigated and determined.
- b. Disputes must be dealt with under the Constitution in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- c. Despite the 'Investigating and determining dispute' rule above, the Society may decide not to proceed further with a complaint if:
 - i. the complaint is considered to be trivial; or
 - ii. the complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
 - that a Member or an Officer has engaged in material misconduct:
 - that a Member, an Officer, or the Society has materially breached, or is likely to materially breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act:
 - that a Member's rights or interests or Members' rights or interests generally have been materially damaged:
 - the complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; OR
 - the person who makes the complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; OR
 - the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under the Constitution; OR
 - there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

SECTION 42 COMMON SEAL

42.1 The Federation shall have a common seal which shall be kept at its registered office.

42.2tThe common seal shall not be affixed to any document without a prior resolution of the Federation.

42.3 The affixing of the common seal shall be witnessed by at least two members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 43 REGISTERED OFFICE

The Federation shall have a registered office, which shall be situated at such place as determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 44 HONORARIUM

The Federation may pay an honorarium to the members of the Executive Committee or to any other member of the Federation or person approved by the Executive Committee or the General Body.

SECTION 45 AUDITOR

43.1 At a General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall appoint an auditor who shall be a qualified Accountant, member of NZIA (New Zealand Institute of Accountants) and who shall be independent of the Federation and its members.

43.2 The auditor shall examine and certify the correctness or otherwise of all of the Federation's accounts and shall submit a report to that effect and such other reports as the auditor thinks fit to the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 46 HONORARY LEGAL ADVISOR

44.1 The Executive Committee may appoint an Honorary Legal Adviser who shall be a barrister or solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

44.2 The Honorary Legal Adviser shall give advice in relation to the Federation's legal affairs as requested by the Executive Committee, the Executive Council or the Federation.

SECTION 47 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The Executive Committee, on the advice of the Honorary Auditor and the Honorary Solicitor, may stipulate procedures which are not specifically provided for in these rules and may enact standing orders and other regulations governing the conduct of all aspects of the Federation and of the Executive Council and the Executive Committee provided however that a general meeting of the Federation may modify or overturn any such decision of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 48 PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS

No Individual member (person) or Executive Committee of NZFMC or any person associated with a member council shall receive any form of private income, benefit or advantage from the operations. No member council of the Federation or Executive Committee of NZFMC or any person associated with a member council shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the Federation in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member council or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage whatsoever. Any such income paid shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's-length transaction (being the open market value).

SECTION 49 DISSOLUTION

49.1 The Federation may be liquidated at a General Meeting provided that:

- a) Notice of motion is given to the Secretary at least four clear weeks before the date of such meeting; and
- b) The procedures stipulated in the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 are followed.
- c) For such a resolution to be passed, two third of the financial members need to vote in favour of such resolution.

49.2.1 No member shall be entitled to vote by proxy on such a motion.

49.3 In the event of the Federation being wound up, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on its behalf shall be discharged as fully as possible and any funds remaining shall be given to those members which are in existence at the date of winding up, provided that they have charitable objectives which are substantially similar to those of the Federation, and in such proportions as the General Meeting decides, and if there are no such members then to any one or more organisation within New Zealand which has charitable objectives substantially similar to those of the Federation, in such proportion as the General Meeting decides, and failing that to such one or more organisation as is determined by the High Court of New Zealand, in such proportion as the Court decides.

SECTION 50 AMENDMENTS TO RULES

50.1 These rules may be amended by motion at a General Meeting provided that:

- a) Notice of motion specifying the amendments is given to the Secretary at-least fourteen clear days before the date of such meeting; and

- b) The motion is passed by two thirds of the members present at the meeting.
- 50.2 No member shall be entitled to vote by proxy on any such motion.
- 50.3 No amendments shall be passed, and if passed shall be of no effect, if such amendment affects the non-profit objectives of the Federation, or rule 47 hereof, or this sub-rule.
- 50.4 When a Rule change is approved by a General Meeting no Rule change shall take effect until the Secretary has filed the changes with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

SECTION 51 LIFE MEMBERS

- 51.1 Life membership may be bestowed upon a member of a Regional Council who has given a special or meritorious or an outstanding service or services to the Federation.
- 51.2 Qualification for Life Membership
The criteria for conferring life membership shall be:
 - a. He or she must have served the Federation cumulatively for not less than five years
 - b. He or she must not be an undischarged bankrupt nor have any criminal conviction punishable by a jail term.
- 51.3 Nomination of a Life Member
 - a. Each nominee shall be proposed and seconded by at-least two different regional councils.
 - b. The nomination together with the nominee's history of service shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary at-least twenty one days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 51.4 Recommendation by the Executive
The Executive Committee shall scrutinize all nominations received within the specified time, select those eligible and recommend them to the Annual General Meeting, provided however that no nomination be unreasonably withheld.
- 51.5 Bestowal
Bestowal of Life Membership shall be conducted by ballot at an Annual General Meeting. At-least 75% of the votes cast must be in favor of the nominee before life membership is can be conferred.
- 51.6 Privileges.
A Life Member shall be entitled to all privileges enjoyed by other members of the Federation. Life Member shall:

- a. not be required to pay any fee or subscription
- b. be entitled to attend all General and Council meetings, at his or her own expense, and have no vote
- c. have the right to attend all functions of the Federation at his or her own expense

51.7 Revocation

In the event that a life member is convicted of a serious criminal offence or commits serious misconduct unbecoming of a Life Member then his or her life membership may be revoked by the Executive Committee. Any such revocation shall be reported to the next General Meeting of the Federation and on the endorsement by 75% of the members become effective.

THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF MULTICULTURAL COUNCILS INC.

We, the under mentioned members of the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc, hereby confirm that the Rules annexed hereto were substituted for the then existing rules of the Federation at the Special General Meeting of the Federation held online on 15 January 2026, in accordance with the then existing Rules of the Federation.

Signature: 
Pancha Varayanan (Jan 23, 2026 09:46:39 GMT+13)
Email: president@mnz.org.nz

Signature: 
Prem Singh (Jan 26, 2026 08:57:09 GMT+13)
Email: treasurer@mnz.org.nz

Signature: 
Hero Modares (Jan 26, 2026 08:42:49 GMT+13)
Email: secretary@mnz.org.nz

APPENDIX “A”

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc. shall be the recognised Multicultural Councils:

1. Whangarei Multicultural Council
2. Auckland City Multi-Ethnic Council
3. Tauranga regional Multicultural Council
4. Rotorua Multicultural Council
5. Waikato Multicultural Council
6. Rangatekei/Whanganui Multicultural Council
7. Manawatu Multicultural Council
8. Hawkes bay Multicultural Council
9. Upper Hutt Multicultural Council
10. Hutt Multicultural Council
11. Porirua Multicultural Council
12. Wellington Multicultural Council
13. Nelson Tasman Multicultural Council
14. Christchurch Multicultural Council
15. Ashburton Multiocultural Council
16. Aoraki (Timaru) Multicultural Council
17. Waitaki Multicultural Council
18. Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council
19. Southland Multicultural Council
20. Marlborough Multicultural Centre
21. Taranaki Multi Ethnic Council Incorporated
22. Taupo Multicultural Council
23. Murihiku Multicultural Council
24. Te Tai Pou Tini Multicultural Council (West Coast)

APPENDIX “B”

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE NZFMC

1. The Federation shall establish the following Standing Committees:
 - (a) The Youth Council with members between the ages of 14 to 30 years
 - (b) The Women’s Council with members aged 16 years and over
 - (c) The Senior Citizen’s Council with members aged 60 years and over
 - (d) The Socio-Economic Council with members aged 16 years and over
 - (e) The Rainbow Council with members aged 16 years and

(Hereinafter jointly where appropriate called the “standing committees of NZFMC”)

2. Each member council shall have the right to appoint a representative for its committee with the right to fully participate at their respective national meetings, forums and seminars.
3. Each committee, in consultation with the Federation Executive, will determine if it will hold an annual meeting at a time and place as agreed by its members provided necessary funding is available.
4. A Chairperson, Secretary and a Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of each committee. The chairperson shall become the representative:
 - (a) to represent the views of its members at the Federation meetings
 - (b) to disseminate information from the Federation to its members and regional councils
 - (c) to represent the committee’s perspective on decisions taken at the Federation’s meetings and to participate in all discussions
 - (d) to fulfill any other duties as determined by its membership
5. Should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting then he/she may appoint either the secretary or the treasurer to represent himself/herself instead.

NZFMC Constitution 2026

Final Audit Report

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