

PREAMBLE

The Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (hereafter referred to as YATA) is the umbrella organization for a network of young and politically motivated leaders throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. In conjunction with the Atlantic Treaty Association (hereafter referred to as ATA), YATA strives to build civil society support for NATO and transatlantic cooperation. YATA draws together the young leaders of today and tomorrow in an effort to help foster the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty: Democracy, Freedom, Liberty, Peace, Security, and the Rule of law.

YATA places a strong emphasis on educational programs and is fully dedicated to engaging the youth of the Euro-Atlantic through close cooperation. Through discussion and political channels, YATA acts as a forum for debate in which member associations can realize common interests and democratic goals in the security environment of the 21st century.

YATA seeks to educate and promote debate among youth in NATO Allied and Partner countries, in an effort to create responsible future leaders who have an understanding of and are committed to the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty.

YATA firmly believes in the strength of the transatlantic relationship – one which is fundamental to the stability of the international system in the 21st century. As such, YATA remains instrumental in bridging values from both sides of the Atlantic in its effort to underpin the broader goals of the NATO Alliance.

WHEREAS YATA is committed to the values of Democracy, Freedom, Liberty, Peace, Security, and the Rule of law;

And WHEREAS the YATA General Assembly (hereafter referred to as the General Assembly) considers it necessary to establish rules and regulations to further its aims and objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, the General Assembly adopts the following YATA Rules and Regulations.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Name

The name of the association is the YOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION and may be referred to by its acronym, which is YATA.

Article 2 – Status

YATA is the youth division of the ATA. YATA organizes independent activities through its own body of elected officials.

Article 3 – Scope

The YATA Rules and Regulations define the rights, obligations, and relationships between YATA and the National YATA Chapters, as well as between YATA and its individual members.

Article 4 – Purpose

YATA aims to:

- (A) develop and maintain a strong network of responsible future political leaders,
- (B) promote cooperation among the youth from NATO Member Countries, NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Countries, NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Countries, and NATO Observer Countries,
- (C) educate and inform the public on international security affairs,
- (D) engage young leaders in promoting the importance of the Transatlantic relationship, while simultaneously helping to shape its future,
- (E) deepen cooperation with other international organizations in an effort to generate debate regarding the role of key security institutions, such as: NATO, the EU, the OSCE, the UN, and the Council of Europe,
- (F) encourage research into the role of NATO, and
- (G) support the activities of the ATA.

II. NATIONAL YATA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Article 5 – Status of the National YATA Chapters

National YATA Chapters are autonomous entities from YATA. However, insofar as they wish to be members of YATA and be affiliated with its international network, they must abide by the YATA Rules and Regulations.

Article 6 – Eligibility Requirements for National YATA Chapters

1. There shall only be one (1) National YATA Chapter per country
2. Where a prospective National YATA Chapter seeks to be established in a country where a National ATA Chapter exists, it must have the written approval of the National ATA Chapter.
3. The prospective National YATA Chapter must nominate a President who shall report to the YATA Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the Executive Board).
4. The prospective National YATA Chapter must be committed to the aims and values of YATA.

Article 7 – Establishment of National YATA Chapters by the Executive Board

The Executive Board may, subject to the approval of the ATA Secretary General, establish new National YATA Chapters in countries where:

- (A) no National YATA Chapter exists, or

- (B) the National YATA chapter has been expelled.

Article 8 – National YATA Chapter Responsibilities

National YATA Chapters shall:

- (A) participate in YATA activities,
- (B) organize at least one (1) event per calendar year which furthers the aims outlined in Article 4 of the YATA Rules and Regulations,
- (C) nominate national representatives to participate in YATA conferences,
- (D) publish a National YATA Chapter annual report and have it made available to the Secretary General at least one (1) month prior to the start of the General Assembly,
- (E) Publish a National YATA Chapter annual strategy proposal and have it made available to the Secretary General no later than one (1) month after the termination of the General Assembly.
- (F) remain in regular contact with the Secretary General and provide, on an annual basis, a list of the principles and all relevant contact and member information for their association, and
- (G) abide by the YATA Rules and Regulations and refrain from any activity which may counter the aims of YATA.

Article 9 – Investigation into Non-Performance

Where there is reason to believe that a National YATA Chapter has conducted itself contrary to the responsibilities established in Article 8 of the YATA Rules and Regulations, the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, may investigate into the status and efficacy of the said YATA National Chapter.

Article 10 – Sanctions for Non-Performance

1. Where it is alleged that a National YATA Chapter has failed to comply with the responsibilities established in Article 8 of the YATA Rules and Regulations, the following rules shall apply:
 - (A) the National YATA Chapter shall receive a notice in writing from the President which shall inform it, in a clear and sufficiently detailed manner, of the allegation made against it,
 - (B) the National YATA Chapter shall be allowed a period of no less than ten (10) days from receipt of this notice to prepare a written response, in which the National YATA Chapter shall present its defense to the Executive Board.
2. Where an allegation of negligence or misconduct has been upheld by the Executive Board, it may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- (A) a reprimand,
- (B) suspension from YATA initiatives and activities, either permanently or for a period deemed appropriate by the Executive Board, and/or
- (C) expulsion from YATA.

3. In the event that the Executive Board imposes the sanction of expulsion, it may, subject to the approval of the ATA Secretary General, seek and/or approve a new National YATA Chapter membership in the country of the expelled National YATA Chapter.

III. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Article 11 – Individual Membership

An individual member of YATA is a person who is:

- (A) a member of a National YATA Chapter,
- (B) between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) years.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 12 – Statutory Bodies

The statutory bodies of YATA are:

- (A) the General Assembly and
- (B) the Executive Board

V. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 13 – Powers and Functions of the General Assembly

1. The annual meeting of the YATA National Chapters is the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly shall:
 - (A) meet once a year in a country designated by the ATA Council (hereafter referred to as the host country),
 - (B) elect the members of the Executive Board,
 - (C) make decisions for YATA,
 - (D) receive and approve the YATA Annual Report, and
 - (E) adopt amendments to the YATA Rules and Regulations.

Article 14 – National YATA Chapter Delegates

1. Each National YATA Chapter has the right to send delegates to attend the General Assembly.
2. The Executive Board may also give permission for observers to attend the General Assembly.

Article 15 – National YATA Chapter Spokesperson

1. Each National YATA Chapter must appoint one (1) of its delegates to act as its sole spokesperson at the General Assembly. This nomination must be communicated in writing to the Secretary General prior to the start of the General Assembly.
2. Only the spokesperson shall have the right to address the General Assembly unless permission is granted by the Chairperson to another delegate.

Article 16 – Decisions of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall make decisions by majority vote of the members present and voting (an abstention is not computed in the total of those voting), unless otherwise provided for in the YATA Rules and Regulations.
2. Each National YATA Chapter shall have one (1) vote at the General Assembly.
3. Observers and Partner Organizations shall not have voting rights at the General Assembly.
4. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 17 – Planning the General Assembly

1. The planning and organization of the General Assembly shall be carried out and implemented jointly by the Executive Board and the National YATA Chapter in the host country.
2. The program and all matters relating to the YATA General Assembly shall be approved by the Executive Board.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Article 18 – Powers and Functions of the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board is vested with the power and authority to manage YATA within the limits of its purpose and subject to the approval of the ATA Secretary General.
2. The Executive Board shall:
 - (A) manage the daily affairs of YATA,
 - (B) make decision for YATA,

- (C) implement its decisions,
- (D) determine the direction YATA shall take in pursuit of the aims outlined in Article 4 of the YATA Rules and Regulations,
- (E) represent YATA to the ATA and to NATO,
- (F) facilitate communication and cooperation among the National YATA Chapters,
- (G) facilitate the planning of YATA events,
- (H) plan and organize the General Assembly jointly with the National YATA Chapter in the host country,
- (I) enforce the YATA Rules and Regulations, and
- (J) have the authority and power to adopt and implement all policies and measures not reserved to the General Assembly.

Article 19 – Meetings

1. The outgoing Executive Board shall meet on the day preceding the start of the General Assembly.
2. The incoming Executive Board shall meet before the termination of the General Assembly.

Article 20 – Regular Communication

1. The members of the Executive Board shall be in regular communication with each other through the various media available to them.
2. The schedule for and method of communication shall be determined at the discretion of the President subject to the availability of the members of the Executive Board.

Article 21 – Decisions of the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall make decisions by majority vote of its members (an abstention is not computed in the total number of those voting), unless otherwise provided for in the YATA Rules and Regulations.
2. Each Executive Board member shall have one (1) vote.
3. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 22 – Composition of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of:

- (A) a President,

- (B) a Secretary General,
- (C) an Executive Vice-President,
- (D) a Vice-President for Public Diplomacy,
- (E) a Vice-President for Communication, and
- (F) a Vice-President for Finance.

Article 23 - President

The President shall:

- (A) be the principle spokesperson for YATA, both internally and externally,
- (B) be responsible for the general policies of YATA and the Executive Board,
- (C) be the Chairperson of the General Assembly and the Executive Board,
- (D) be responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Executive Board are carried out in a timely and effective manner,
- (E) delegate responsibilities, at his/her discretion, to other members of the Executive Board,
- (F) establish, at his/her discretion, internal rules for the efficient functioning of the Executive Board,
- (G) report on the affairs of YATA to its members and to the ATA on a regular basis,
- (H) prepare the YATA Annual Report,
- (I) present the approved YATA Annual Report to the ATA General Assembly,
- (J) be a member, *ex-officio*, without voting rights of the ATA Bureau, and
- (K) perform all duties incidental to his/her office.

Article 24 – Secretary General

The Secretary General shall:

- (A) be responsible for the administration of YATA,
- (B) be responsible for communications with the National YATA Chapters,
- (C) collect the National YATA Chapter annual reports,
- (D) collect the National YATA Chapter annual strategy proposals,

- (E) maintain a regular record of the internal communications of the Executive Board,
- (F) prepare the minutes for the meetings of the Executive Board,
- (G) report regularly to the Executive Board on matters pertaining to his/her portfolio,
- (H) submit an annual report to the General Assembly pertaining to his/her portfolio, and
- (I) perform all duties incidental to his/her office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Article 25 – Executive Vice-President

The Executive Vice-President shall:

- (A) assist the President in the performance of his/her duties,
- (B) replace the President and assume his/her functions should the President not be able to perform his/her duties,
- (C) coordinate the responsibilities of the Executive Board with the President,
- (D) report regularly to the Executive Board on matters pertaining to his/her portfolio,
- (E) submit an annual report to the General Assembly pertaining to his/her portfolio, and
- (F) perform all duties incidental to his/her office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Article 26 – Vice-President for Public Diplomacy

The Vice-President for Public Diplomacy shall:

- (A) establish, maintain and promote relations with the public, private and institutional sectors,
- (B) establish, maintain and promote relations with potential partner organizations,
- (C) be responsible for the promotion of YATA and its activities to all interested parties and potential stakeholders,
- (D) report regularly to the Executive Board on matters pertaining to his/her portfolio,
- (E) submit an annual report to the General Assembly pertaining to his/her

portfolio, and

- (F) perform all duties incidental to his/her office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Article 27 – Vice-President for Communications

The Vice-President for Communications shall:

- (A) be responsible for updating, monitoring and maintaining the YATA website,
- (B) be responsible for updating, monitoring and maintaining the YATA blog,
- (C) be responsible for collecting submissions and editing the YATA Newsletter,
- (D) publicize YATA activities and initiatives through the various media available,
- (E) report regularly to the Executive Board on matters pertaining to his/her portfolio,
- (F) submit an annual report to the General Assembly pertaining to his/her portfolio, and
- (G) perform all duties incidental to his/her office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Article 28 – Vice-President for Finance

The Vice-President for Finance shall:

- (A) research fundraising opportunities in, but not limited to, the public, private, and institutional sectors,
- (B) actively work to raise funds for the operation of YATA and for the financing of its activities and initiatives,
- (C) report regularly to the Executive Board on matters pertaining to his/her portfolio,
- (D) submit an annual report to the General Assembly pertaining to his/her portfolio, and
- (E) perform all duties incidental to his/her office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Article 29 – Term of Office

1. Each member of the Executive Board shall serve a term of one (1) year, each year calculated as the period between two (2) consecutive annual General Assemblies.

2. Executive Board members may not serve for more than three (3) years in the same position.

Article 30 – Removal from Office

1. A member of the Executive Board may, by resolution adopted by the Executive Board, be removed from office for impropriety, violation of the YATA Rules and Regulations, or habitual non-performance of duties. A person against whom a resolution to remove is directed shall be afforded the opportunity to respond to the allegations made against him/her.
2. A resolution to remove an Executive Board member from office must be presented by no less than three (3) members of the Executive Board.
3. Adoption of the resolution for removal requires the unanimous approval of the Executive Board.
4. The Executive Board member who is the subject of an allegation is not eligible to vote on the resolution for removal.

Article 31 – Resignation

A member of the Executive Board may resign from his/her office by submitting written notice to the Executive Board.

Article 32 – Vacancy

In the event that the office of a member of the Executive Board becomes vacant, the Executive Board, by unanimous decision of its members, shall appoint a new board member for the vacated post.

Article 33 – YATA Representative at the ATA Secretariat

1. In the event that the ATA Secretariat employs a person responsible for YATA affairs, this person shall be a member, *ex-officio*, without voting rights, of the Executive Board.
2. The duties and responsibilities of this person shall be determined jointly by the ATA Secretary General and the YATA President.

VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Article 34 – Elections

All members of the Executive Board shall be elected at the annual General Assembly.

Article 35 – Chief Returning Officer

1. The President shall designate, with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board, a person to act as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).
2. The CRO shall:

- (A) publicize upcoming elections to YATA members no later than thirty (30) days before the General Assembly,
- (B) be responsible for collecting candidate nominations,
- (C) determine the eligibility of candidates pursuant to Article 37 of the YATA Rules and Regulations,
- (D) enforce the electoral guidelines established in the YATA Rules and Regulations,
- (E) publicize the candidacies no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the deadline for nomination,
- (F) preside over and administer the voting procedure in accordance with the rules established in Article 38 of the YATA Rules and Regulations,
- (G) rule on protests relating to the elections,
- (H) submit a written report to the General Assembly on the results of the elections, and
- (I) not have voting rights or present himself/herself as a candidate in the elections.

Article 36 – Nomination

1. A candidate for a position on the Executive Board must notify the CRO of his/her candidacy no later than two (2) weeks before the start of the General Assembly.
2. The candidate, at the same time as submitting the notice mentioned in the above paragraph, must deliver the following documentation to the CRO:
 - (A) a one (1) page written statement of intent,
 - (B) his/her curriculum vitae, and
 - (C) a recent photograph.
3. If at the expiry of the delay for submitting candidacies, there is no candidate for a given office, the CRO shall re-open nominations for that office for a period of two (2) working days.

Article 37 – Eligibility Requirements for Office

1. To be eligible for office, a candidate must:
 - (A) be a member in good standing of a National YATA Chapter,
 - (B) be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) years, and
 - (C) have the written approval of his/her National ATA Chapter which must

be delivered to the CRO before the expiration of the nomination period.

2. A candidate for either the office of the President or the office of the Secretary General must be a member of a National YATA Chapter which is located in a NATO member country.
3. No more than one (1) member of a National YATA Chapter may run for office on the Executive Board.

Article 38 – Voting Procedure

1. A candidate shall be given the opportunity to make a brief announcement to the General Assembly before the commencement of the voting procedure.
2. Each National YATA Chapter present at the General Assembly shall receive one (1) ballot upon which all the names of the candidates shall appear in alphabetical order according to position.
3. Each National YATA Chapter shall have one (1) vote for each position on the Executive Board.
4. Completed ballots shall be placed, by the National YATA Chapter Spokesperson, in a container at the front of the room.
5. The CRO must count the votes in the presence of two (2) witnesses selected by the General Assembly.
6. The candidate with the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
7. The vote count shall be made available to all voting members of the General Assembly.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Article 39 – Establishment of Special Committees

1. The President may, from time to time, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, establish one or more Special Committee(s) whose purpose shall be to further the aims of YATA.
2. The mandates of the Special Committees shall be defined by the President.

Article 40 – Powers and Functions of the Special Committees

1. The powers and functions of the Special Committees shall be determined by the President.
2. The Special Committees shall report directly to the President or to an Executive Board member chosen by the President.
3. The power, authority and responsibilities of the Executive Board is not delegated

to the Special Committees, and accordingly the Executive Board retains complete and direct control over the decision to adopt and implement proposals submitted by the Special Committees.

Article 41 – Structure of the Special Committees

1. The structure of the Special Committees shall be established at the discretion of the President.
2. Members of the Special Committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.

Article 42 – Duration of the Special Committees

1. The mandates of the Special Committees shall be for such period of time as determined by the President which shall not be beyond the end of his/her term in office.
2. At the end of the mandate, each Special Committee must present, to the President, a written report of its activities.

IX. PARTNERS

Article 43 – Partnerships

1. The Executive Board may establish partnerships with organizations which are interested in cooperating with YATA and whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of YATA.
2. These organization shall be designated as Partner Organizations.
3. The terms and conditions of the partnership must be approved by the Executive Board.
4. Partner Organizations may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be invited to attend YATA activities.
5. Partner Organizations do not have voting rights.

Article 44 – Request for Partnership

1. The organization seeking a partnership with YATA must submit its request in writing to the Executive Board, along with a document stating it aims, activities, purpose, and any other information requested by the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board shall decide whether or not to accept the request for partnership.

X. CONDUCT

Article 45 – Conduct

1. YATA will not tolerate any discrimination or harassment on the basis of race,

gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, nationality or religion.

2. Individual members of YATA, who participate in YATA initiatives and activities, must conduct themselves according to accepted and recognized standards of proper comportment, including, but not limited to, recognizing the dignity of others and treating them with courtesy, fairness, and respect.

Article 46 – Grievances

Any allegation of a violation of the rules of conduct established in Article 45 of the YATA Rules and Regulations shall be submitted in writing by a YATA member to the Executive Board within a maximum of thirty (30) days of the alleged violation

Article 47 – Investigation into Misconduct

Where an individual member of YATA is alleged to have conducted himself/herself contrary to the rules of conduct established in Article 45 of the YATA Rules and Regulations, the Executive Board may direct the President to conduct an investigation to establish the facts pertaining to the allegation.

Article 48 – Sanctions for Misconduct

1. Where an individual YATA member is accused of failing to comply with the rules of conduct established in Article 45 of the YATA Rules and Regulations, the following rules shall apply:
 - (A) the individual YATA member shall receive a notice in writing from the President which shall inform him/her, in a clear and sufficiently detailed manner, of the allegation made against him/her,
 - (B) the individual YATA member shall be allowed a period of no less than ten (10) days from receipt of this notice to prepare a written response, in which the individual YATA member shall present his/her defense to the Executive Board.
2. Where an allegation of misconduct has been upheld by the Executive Board, it may impose one of the following sanctions:
 - (A) a reprimand,
 - (B) suspension from YATA initiatives and activities, either permanently or for a period deemed appropriate by the Executive Board, or
 - (C) expulsion from YATA.

XI. LANGUAGE

Article 49 – Official Languages

English and French are the official languages of YATA.

Article 50 – Working Language at Regional and International Conferences

English is the working language of YATA at regional and international conferences.

Article 51 – Working Language at National Conferences

The working language at national conferences shall be determined at the sole discretion of the local National YATA Chapter.

XII. AMENDMENTS

Article 52 – Amendment Procedure

1. Amendments to the YATA Rules and Regulations require the approval of two thirds (2/3) of the National YATA Chapters present and voting at the General Assembly (an abstention is not computed in the total of those voting).
2. Amendments to the YATA Rules and Regulations are subject to the approval of the ATA Council.
3. Amendments to the YATA Rules and Regulations shall come into force immediately after the termination of the ATA General Assembly.

XIII. COMING INTO FORCE

Article 53 – Coming into Force

1. These YATA Rules and Regulations shall come into force on November 12, 2008.
2. Upon coming into force, these YATA Rules and Regulations shall replace and render obsolete any former YATA Rules and Regulations.