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**Statutes for Spire**

**Enacted on April 23rd 2017**

The following documents constitute the basis for Spire’s activity:

- Statutes
- Political platform
- Strategy

**§1 Name and Purpose**

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§1.1 Spire is a nationwide youth organization independent of political parties with a target group of young people between 18 and 30 years of age. The Development Fund is Spire’s mother organization.

We live in a world of enormous inequality. Many are living in under dire conditions, while others are living a life of abundance. We use our planet’s resources to an extent that inflicts injury that is causing damage today, and will severely restrict future generations’ options.

§1.2 Spire wants to change the social structures that tend to perpetuate such an unfair distribution and adverse management of economic, social, biological and cultural rights and resources.

The environment and development cannot be seen as separate entities, and an environmentally sustainable development is crucial to Spire’s work.

We intend to achieve our goals by providing information, influencing national and global politics, non-violent actions and collaborating with local partner organizations in developing countries.

**§2 Membership**

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§2.1 Everyone below the age of 30 can be members of Spire. Members who have paid their fee is considered members for the calendar year. Persons who have not paid their members fee in two following years are no longer considered a member of Spire. All who supports Spire’s work is encouraged to become regular donors, especially those above 30 years of age.

**§2.2 Rights**

All members have the right to speak, submit proposals, and have the right to stand for election at the Annual Grand Meeting. Members who have paid their membership dues no later than one month before the Annual Grand Meeting also have the right to vote. Members who have not paid membership dues more than one month prior to the Annual Grand Meeting may nevertheless be granted the right to vote if those who already have voting rights entitle them to do so.

**§ 2.3 Exceptions from §2.1 and §2.2**

Persons above the age of 30 year who possess elected positions, centrally or locally, counts as ordinary members below the age of 30 years. Persons above the age of 30 years, whom do not hold an elected position, is encouraged to be active members, but does not have the right to vote in the National Council and the Annual Grand Meeting.

47 **§3 Foundational documents**

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49 **§3.1** Spire’s foundational documents are as follows: Political platform, Statutes and Strategy.

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51 **§3.2** Those who claim to speak on behalf of Spire have to ensure that the statement does not go  
52 against Spire’s foundational documents and adopted policies.

53  
54 **§3.3** The statutes describe the rules for the way in which Spire is organized and structured. Our  
55 political platform describes Spire’s political core areas and the topics Spire is working on. Our  
56 strategy document describes Spire’s overall goals for the coming years, and describes how we will  
57 reach those goals. All proposed amendments to the basic documents must have been submitted to  
58 the editorial committee within a month prior to the Annual Grand Meeting. All amendments that  
59 have been submitted within the deadline will be discussed at the Annual Grand Meeting. Members  
60 with the right to vote and to submit proposals at the Annual Grand Meeting are entitled to suggest  
61 changes to any proposed amendment of the basic documents. Any changes to proposed  
62 amendments have to be given to the chair or moderator within a deadline decided by the Annual  
63 Grand Meeting. It cannot be a significantly new proposal. A 2/3 majority at the Annual Grand  
64 Meeting is required for any change to the basic documents.

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66 **§3.4** The editing committee can make editorial changes to Spire’s foundational documents after  
67 every Annual Grand Meeting. Changes must be approved by the Core Group.

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69 **§3.5** Changes in basic documents take effect immediately after the Annual Grand Meeting adopts it.

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71 **§3.6** If there is a dispute over the interpretation of the basic documents, the Core Group may, by a  
72 simple majority, adopt an interpretation of the basic documents that will apply until the next Annual  
73 Grand Meeting.

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75 **§4 The Annual Grand Meeting**

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77 **§4.1** The Annual Grand Meeting is Spire’s highest authority and is held each spring before the end of  
78 April. Notice is given at least two months prior to the Meeting, and should contain information about  
79 time, place, current basic documents, deadlines for amendments and a provisional agenda. Final  
80 notice is given two weeks in advance of the Annual Grand Meeting, and should contain all documents  
81 relevant to the Meeting, as well as all submitted proposals for amendments and a final agenda. The  
82 moderators at the Annual Grand Meeting cannot be active members of Spire.

83  
84 **§4.2** At the Annual Grand Meeting following the following matters shall be dealt with:

- 85 1. Constituting the Annual Grand Meeting
- 86 2. Annual report of the Core Group (including financial report)
- 87 3. Handling of the accounting and the budget
- 88 4. Amendments to the statutes
- 89 5. Amendments to the political platform
- 90 6. Working program/annual goals
- 91 7. The Annual Grand Meetings formal approval of new local chapters
- 92 8. Choosing campaign themes
- 93 9. Resolutions
- 94 10. Honors of extraordinary members
- 95 11. Election of:
  - 96 • Leader
  - 97 • Political deputy

- 98           • Organizational deputy
- 99           • Up to two ordinary Core Group members
- 100          • One representative for each committee
- 101          • Representative for the International committee
- 102          • Coordinator of the food committee
- 103          • Coordinator of the climate committee
- 104          • Coordinator of the trade committee
- 105          • Coordinator for a urban committee
- 106          • Head of the nomination committee, as well as two members
- 107          • Head of the editorial committee, as well as two members
- 108          • Accountant

110 §4.3 The nomination committee recommends one person for each position. The nomination  
 111 committee should also submit a comprehensive account of the composition. If there is more than  
 112 one candidate, or if anyone requests that it be done so, then the election must be held by written  
 113 ballot.

114  
 115 §4.4 If several candidates want to run for the same position they can propose a motion from the  
 116 floor. The nomination committee has to inform potential candidates about their right to propose a  
 117 motion from the floor. They can deliver a written motion within a deadline decided by the Annual  
 118 Grand Meeting, about why they want to be elected that should be distributed before the election.  
 119 The candidates can also hold a short speech.

120  
 121 §4.5 The leader of Spire is elected for two years. The leader can run for reelection for one additional  
 122 year at the time.

123  
 124 § 4.6 If the election to any position results in a tie, a new round of voting is conducted. If a new tie is  
 125 the result, the election is settled by drawing lots.

126  
 127 §4.7 An extraordinary Annual Grand Meeting is to be held if the Core Group (by a majority of 2/3),  
 128 the National Council (by a majority of 2/3), 2/3 of the local chapters, or at least 1/3 of Spire’s  
 129 members demand it. Only those issues that necessitated the extraordinary Annual Grand Meeting in  
 130 the first place will be dealt with at that meeting. Relevant documents for an extraordinary Annual  
 131 Grand Meeting are to be sent out three weeks prior to the meeting.

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 133 **§5       The National Council**

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 135 §5.1 The National Council is the local chapters’ organizational and political forum, with decision  
 136 authority over the Core Group and during the Annual Grand Meeting. At the National Council the  
 137 local chapters can make connections, exchange experiences, discuss cooperation, decide on  
 138 resolutions and other decisions, and speak to the Core Group on behalf of their members.

139  
 140 §5.2 The National Council consists of two delegates from each local chapter, as well as Spires Leader  
 141 and organizational deputy. If the organizational deputy cannot go, the Core Group can elect a deputy  
 142 with voting rights before the final agenda is distributed. New local chapters are accepted into the  
 143 organization at the Annual Grand Meeting. The National Council is Spire’s highest organ in between  
 144 the Annual Grand Meetings. There shall be at least two National Councils every year. The time and  
 145 place will be decided during the year in connection with the fall and winter seminars. The local  
 146 chapters and the organizational deputy cooperate to set the date in good time before the meetings.

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 148 §5.3 The National Council is subordinate to the Annual Grand Meeting and bound by Spire’s basic  
 149 documents.

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§5.4 At a National Council, the following should be dealt with:

- Constitution of the National Council
- The Core Group’s report on organizational activities
- The Core Group’s report on the financial situation
- Reports of local chapter activity and exchange of experiences
- Resolutions

§5.5 Each local chapter should send two delegates to the National Council. Each delegate has a vote. The leader has a double vote if the vote is equal. The chairperson cannot have the right to vote at the National Council.

§5.6 The National Council constitutes a quorum when 2/3 of Spire’s local chapters are represented. Decisions can be made by a simple majority unless otherwise prescribed.

§5.7 The organizational deputy is responsible for issuing a summons to the National Council. The initial notice must be given at least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Relevant documents must be sent out at least two weeks in advance. All members of Spire have the right to attend, speak, and submit proposals at the National Council. Matters relevant to the agenda shall have been given to the organizational deputy before relevant documents are sent out. The National Council cannot make decisions on miscellaneous issues or other proposals that have been submitted after the deadline.

§5.8 The executive committee are obligated to attend the National Council. The Core Group is encouraged to attend.

§5.9 An extraordinary National Council may be called if a 2/3 majority of the Core Group or half Spire’s local chapters requests it.

## **§6 The Core Group**

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§6.1 The Core Group is Spire’s central board. It is elected for one year at a time at Spire’s Annual Grand Meeting, and is the highest organ between Spire’s Annual Grand Meetings and the National Councils. It takes effect after a period of overlapping and training lasting 30 days after the conclusion of the Annual Grand Meeting. The Core Group shall consist of minimum eight and maximum 12 members. The Core Group consists of a leader, a political deputy, an organizational deputy, a campaign leader, and up to eight other Core Group members. The other members shall include one representative from each political committee, and an international representative. The coordinators serves as deputy for the representatives. All members of the Core Group have the right to vote.

Local chapter leaders have the right to speak and to submit proposals at all Core Group meetings. The Core Group constitutes a quorum when at least five of those entitled to vote are present. Decisions of the Core Group are reached by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the leader has a double vote. If the leader is not present, the deciding vote goes to the political deputy. The Core Group’s venue is Oslo.

§6.2 The Core Group can decide to close a meeting by simple majority if a sensitive matter is being treated, as long as the reason for closing the meeting is made public.

§6.3 If a committee’s representative or coordinator wishes to withdraw, the committee concerned should propose a new representative. This representative has to be approved by the Core Group. If a member of the Core Group resigns, the Core Group may supplement itself. If a member of the

202 Executive Committee resigns, the nomination committee shall make a proposal to the Core Group,  
203 which then supplements itself.

204

205 §6.4 The leader is Spire’s public face, will be represented on the board of the Development Fund,  
206 coordinate the organization, and lead of the executive committee.

207

208 §6.5 The leader and political deputy is responsible for Spires representation in different professional  
209 and political contexts. The political deputy leads Spire’s policy meetings.

210

211 §6.6 The organizational deputy is responsible for the Annual Grand Meeting and the National  
212 Council, and shall make sure that the editorial committee and the nomination committee follow  
213 through on their tasks, as well as other organizational activities. The organizational deputy is  
214 responsible for membership recruitment. The Organizational deputy is responsible for following up  
215 the local chapters, communication between the local chapters and the core group, arranging the  
216 National Council and updating the guidelines for the local chapters.

217

218 §6.7 The representatives of the committees are responsible for the flow of information between  
219 their political committees and the Core Group. This means, in practice, that they provide updates on  
220 the committee’s activities at the Core Group meetings and update their respective committees on  
221 relevant matters from Core Group meetings.

222

223 §6.8 The international committee is responsible for cooperating with Spires international partners  
224 and making sure that the voice from the South is incorporated in Spire’s work.

225

226 §6.9 If the Core Group has any regular Core Group members, they are to function as a resource for  
227 the Core Group through sharing experiences valuable to the Core Group’s work and/or by allocating  
228 some of their work time for the benefit of the Core Group. The Core Group may have up to two  
229 regular Core Group members.

230

231 §6.10 The Core Group is the employer of Spires secretariat. The Core Group approves salary and  
232 employment percentage.

233

234 §6.11 The leader, political deputy, organizational deputy and organizational secretary constitute  
235 Spire’s executive committee, where the leader, political deputy and organizational deputy have the  
236 right to vote. The executive committee is in charge of Spire’s daily operations.

237

238 §6.12 The campaign leader has the primary responsibility for Spire’s main campaign and leads the  
239 campaign committee.

240

241 §6.13 The coordinators of the political committees are professionally and politically responsible for  
242 their committee, shall coordinate the committees work, shall secure visibility and actuality and work  
243 for the committees long term development.

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## 245 **§7 Local chapters**

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247 §7.1 Three or more of Spire’s members can establish a local chapter, as long as a leader and a  
248 financial manager are elected.

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250 §7.2 Each local chapter must elect a leader and a financial manager.

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252 §7.3 Local chapters are subject to Spire’s basic documents. Local chapters may voice opinions on  
253 behalf of their own local chapter.

254  
255 §7.4 All members of Spire automatically become members of the local chapter that operates in each  
256 member’s local community. It is possible to opt out of being a member of a local chapter. If there is  
257 no local chapter in the member’s geographic proximity, the member will come under the Core Group  
258 as a support member until a local chapter is established to which the member in question can be  
259 transferred.

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261 **§8 The political committees**

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§8.1 The committees are Spire’s experts in their fields. The committees work to develop Spire’s  
264 policies, highlight Spire in politics and media within their fields and build competence in the  
265 organization. Spire’s political and disciplinary committees are:

- 266 ● The Climate Committee
- 267 ● The Trade Committee
- 268 ● The Food Committee
- 269 ● The City Committee
- 270 ● The International Committee

271  
272 §8.2 If the establishment of a new committee becomes relevant between two Annual Grand  
273 Meetings the National Council can approve these and choose a coordinator and representative.  
274 These are then equal to the other committees until the next Annual Grand Meeting where the new  
275 committees can be incorporated in the statutes or terminated.

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277 **§9 Committees**

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§9.1 The editorial committee consists of three members elected at the Annual Grand Meeting. The  
280 Core Group may supplement the committee if a member withdraws or in case of need. The editorial  
281 committee is responsible for collecting and organizing the proposals to the basic documents before  
282 the Annual Grand meeting and revising the basic documents after changes enacted by the Annual  
283 Grand Meeting by June 31st.

284  
285 §9.2 The nomination committee is elected at the Annual Grand Meeting and shall consist of three  
286 members. The Core Group may supplement the committee if a member withdraws or in case of  
287 need. At the Annual Grand Meeting the nomination committee is to pass on general  
288 recommendations to Spire’s centrally elected positions.

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290 **§10 Campaign**

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§10.1 Each year Spire holds a campaign. The theme for the campaign are chosen at the Annual Grand  
293 Meeting. The committees and local chapters are strongly encouraged to suggest at least one  
294 campaign theme each at the Annual Grand meeting. The committee or local chapter that proposed  
295 the theme chosen by the Annual Grand Meeting is also responsible for electing a campaign leader as  
296 soon as possible after the work with the campaign has begun. The campaign committee recommends  
297 their leader to the Core Group which supplement themselves. The campaign leader is a member of  
298 the Core Group until the campaign is finished. The Core Group and the campaign committee shall  
299 include all of Spire’s local chapters in the planning and implementation of the campaign.

300  
301 **§11 Collaboration with the Development Fund**

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§11.1 Spire is the Development Fund’s youth organization. A close collaboration with the  
304 Development Fund is positive when it creates positive synergies for both organizations. The

305 collaboration between Spire and the Development Fund is formalized in monthly cooperation  
306 meetings and in a separate perennial cooperation agreement.

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308 §11.2 Spire is represented on the board of the Development Fund by its leader.

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310 **§12 Economy**

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312 §12.1 Spire has an independent economy. The Annual Grand Meeting approves the accounting and  
313 the budget. The Core Group follows up on the Annual Grand Meetings decisions and has the  
314 responsibility for Spires economy. The core group is obliged to be updated on Spires economic  
315 situation and development at all times.

316

317 §12.2 Any members of the organization has the duty to report to the Core Group is they suspect  
318 economic crimes. It is the Executive Committees responsibility to investigate and the Core Groups  
319 responsibility to consider to press charges.

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321 **§13 Gender representation**

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323 §13.1 Spire will strive to be represented by maximum 60% of the same gender in all fora.

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325 **§14 Disciplinary action**

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327 §14.1 Organizational discipline of a member can be carried out by Spire's Core Group through  
328 warnings and/or exclusion from Spire. Reasons for disciplining a member of Spire include acting  
329 against Spire's objects or basic documents, blocked or impeded Spires work, acted unethically, or  
330 otherwise harmed Spire's reputation. Before disciplinary action is taken, however, the member  
331 should be given the chance to mount a defense to the Core Group. The member that is being  
332 disciplined can request to get their case processed in the National Council. The National Council can  
333 overrule the Core Croups decision with a 2/3 majority. If an elected representative neglects its position  
334 over time, the Executive Committee can give that person a warning. If the warning is not taken note  
335 the Core Group can ask the person concerned to withdraw from their position.

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337 **§15 Language**

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339 §15.1 To include international members, Spire will offer sufficient written information in both English  
340 and Norwegian.

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342 **§16 Partners**

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344 §16.1 Spire shall find international partners that share Spires visions and political goals. New formal  
345 cooperation partners shall be approved by the Core Group. Before entering any concrete project  
346 there must be made a contract which specifies guidelines and expectations. Cooperation projects  
347 shall not be used for one's own financial gain.

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349 **§17 Member Awards**

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351 § 17.1 Spires members are the main reason why Spire makes a difference in the fight for a more  
352 sustainable world. Therefore it is important for us to have an organizational culture which  
353 appreciates members. The following awards are awarded at the Annual Grand Meeting:

354 ● Spire Veteran

355 Awarded to members that have been active for 3 years, or held elected positions for two years. Spire  
356 veterans are always invited Spires events, and serve as a resource group that new members may  
357 consult. Everyone who meets the criteria become veterans.

358 • Honorary Membership

359 Honorary Memberships is Spire’s most coveted distinction. Honorary members shall be nominated  
360 by other members for making an extraordinary contribution to the organization. The nomination  
361 should be reported to the Core Group at least six month before the Great Meeting. The Core Group  
362 makes the final assessment and recommends the awards to the Annual Grand Meeting.

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364 **§18 Disbanding**

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366 §18.1 Spire can only be disbanded if disbandment is subsequently passed in two successive Annual  
367 Grand Meetings held at least six months apart. At disbandment any excess funds should go to Spires  
368 purposes. It is the Core Groups responsibility to distribute the funds.