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STATUTES OF THE HUNGARIAN WORKERS PARTY

A Magyar Dolgozok Partja  
Szervezeti Szabalyzata  
Budapest

I. NAME OF THE PARTY

1. The name of the party is the Hungarian Workers Party.

The Hungarian Workers Party unites the forces of the Hungarian Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, thus ending the decade-long disunity of the Hungarian working class.

In the first place, the party is the shock troop of the only consistently socialist class. At the same time, it is the workers' party, which unites within its ranks the peasants as well as the best of the working intellectuals. It embraces a wide range of workers and is a mass party, which recruits its membership from the entire working people and is welded together with the workers. The party is the highest form of organization of the working class and of the working people.

The party's activities are directed by the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin.

The party carries on the revolutionary traditions of the working class, continues the Hungarian people's fight for freedom, and is the heir and promoter of Hungarian progressive ideas.

The party fights for a socialistic society in which exploiting classes and exploitation of man by man will cease, the differences of the working classes will vanish, and progress will lead toward Communism.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF PARTY MEMBERS

2. The party member identifies himself with the aims, the program, and the political line of the party, participates in the work of a basic organization, subordinates himself to party discipline, and pays his membership dues regularly. Only persons who have attained the age of 16 years can become party members.

3. The responsibilities of the party member are as follows:
  - a. To fight with all his might for the party, the working people, the country, and the prosperity of the Hungarian Republic.
  - b. To develop continuously his political knowledge, increase his cultural level, and make every effort to master Marxist-Leninist doctrines.
  - c. To safeguard vigilantly the party's ideological purity and organizational unity and to protect the party against all enemies.
  - d. To carry out the resolutions of party organs with discipline.

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e. To strengthen his relations with the masses, enlighten them on the party's politics, and be their counselor and leader.

f. To lead in production, set an example in work discipline and professional training, and guard law and order and the discipline of the people's democratic state.

4. The rights of the party member are as follows:

a. To participate in the party's political and organizational debates and in the formulation of resolutions.

b. To criticize the work of the party and the activities of party members and organs at party meetings and conferences.

c. To participate in the election of the party's leading organs as candidate for election and voter.

d. To address questions or petitions to higher party organs, as far as the Central Committee and the National Congress.

### III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP

5. The preliminary school for party membership is the probationary membership. The purpose of the probationary membership is to enable a person who desires to become a party member to familiarize himself with the program, bylaws, and political line of the party, and also to give the party an opportunity to study the candidate's sincerity toward the party and the People's Democracy.

6. The responsibilities and rights of the candidate are similar to those of the members. However, the candidates participate in the deliberations of party meetings and conferences but do not possess voting rights and are not eligible for election to any party organ or committee.

### IV. ADMISSION OF PARTY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES, TERMINATION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP AND CANDIDACY, DEMOTION OF PARTY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

7. New party members can be admitted to the party only individually. Generally, new party members can be selected only from the candidates, and then only from those who have been candidates for 6 months and have proved to be worthy of party membership as a result of their work. A candidate is required to submit his written request for party membership to the secretary of his local party organ. The request must be accompanied by the written recommendations of two sponsors who have been members of the Hungarian Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, or the Hungarian Workers Party for at least 2 years, and have known the candidate as a result of common activity for at least 6 months. The sponsors are responsible to the party for their recommendations.

Recommendation for the admission of a new member is submitted by the committee of the basic organ to the membership meeting of the basic organ and the admission is approved by the megye or jaras party committee.

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In exceptional cases, applicants may be admitted to party membership without the recommendation of the basic organ or after a period of candidacy of less than 6 months, by the Central Committee, a megye committee, or the party committee of Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, or Pecs.

8. Candidates can be admitted to the party only individually as candidates. The applicant for candidacy is required to complete an admission declaration accompanied by written recommendations of two sponsors who have been members of the Hungarian Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, or the Hungarian Workers Party for at least one year and who are familiar with the candidate as a result of common activity. The sponsors are responsible to the party for their recommendations. Recommendation for the admission of candidates is submitted by the committee of the basic organ to the membership meeting of the basic organ for decision and is approved by the megye or jaras party committee.

9. The party member who performs his party duties with negligence, fails to participate in party rallies and meetings, fails to train himself, or fails to perform party work can be demoted to candidate status. The demotion is decided by the megye or jaras party committee on the basis of the recommendation of the committee of the basic organ.

10. The party member or candidate who without justification fails to pay his membership dues for 3 months or to fulfill his responsibilities after a warning loses his party membership or his designation as a candidate. The termination of party membership or of candidacy is recommended by the committee of the local organ, and the decision is made by the membership meeting of the basic organ, which must submit it to the district, regional, or city party committee for approval or disapproval.

11. Party members and candidates employed in institutions and enterprises are affiliated with the party organ of their place of employment, but the party organ of their residential area must also keep a record of them.

All other party members and candidates belong to the party organ of their place of residence.

12. If a party member or candidate changes his residence or place of employment he must be transferred to the party organ of his new place of residence or employment. The party member or candidate must also have the transfer recorded in his membership book.

#### V. STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY ORGANIZATION

13. The party is organized on the principle of democratic centralism. This means the following:

- a. The important top organs of the party are elected democratically at membership meetings, party conferences, and national party congresses.
- b. The leading organs are required to give an account of their activities to the party organizations.
- c. The party organizations and committees democratically debate the political line and tasks of the party.

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d. In case of a difference of opinion, the minority is required to abide by the decision of the majority, and each party member and candidate is obligated to carry out the decision.

e. The lower organs and party members as well as the candidates are required to carry out the decisions of the National Congress and of the leading organs, even though individual members, candidates, or party organs are not in agreement with the decision.

f. In all organs and organizations of the party, decisions are reached by simple majority.

g. Each party organ can decide local problems independently, but these decisions cannot conflict with the party's program, principles, or practical policy.

h. Democracy within the party makes possible and demands wide development of solid party discipline, constructive criticism, and self-criticism, a prerequisite for the good work of party organizations, members, and candidates.

#### VI. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

14. The highest organ of the party is the National Congress, which is convoked every second year by the Central Committee. The Central Committee may, on its own initiative or on the motion of one third of the party members, convoke a special congress. Delegates to the regular as well as the special congress are elected democratically at party conferences. The number of delegates of each party organization is established by the Central Committee.

15. The National Congress does the following:

a. Hears and reviews the report of the Central Committee, approves or modifies the party's program and statutes, and works out the political, tactical, and organizational lines of the party.

b. Establishes the number of members of the Central Committee and the Central Control Committee and elects these organs democratically.

#### VII. THE NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE

16. Between two congresses, the Central Committee may, on its own initiative, convoke a national party conference. The national party conference consists of the delegates and party functionaries of the megyek and of Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, and Pecs. The proportion of party membership and the significance of the individual party organizations are considered by the Central Committee in determining the number of delegates of the party committees at the national party conference.

17. The national party conference decides on political and organizational problems arising during the interim between two congresses.

18. The national party conference is authorized to re-elect one fifth of the members of the Central Committee.

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VIII. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

19. The Central Committee directs the party during the interim between two national party congresses and represents the party before other political parties, organizations, state institutions, or state authorities.

20. The Central Committee elects the following from its own members:

a. The president, secretary-general, and deputy secretary-general of the party.

b. The Political Committee, which executes the resolutions of the Central Committee and decides on all questions during the interim between two sessions of the Central Committee.

c. The Organizing Committee, for the supervision of organizational work. The Organizing Committee has the task of directing, unifying, and supervising the apparatus and organs of the party. The Organizing Committee submits its more important resolutions to the Political Committee for approval.

d. The Secretariat, which conducts the affairs of the party during the interim between two sessions of the Political Committee.

The Central Committee also appoints the responsible directors of the central party press.

21. The operations of the Political Committee and Secretariat are directed by the Secretary-General.

IX. CENTRAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

22. The tasks of the Central Control Committee are as follows:

a. To watch over the political attitudes, morality, and loyalty to the party of party members and candidates.

b. To wage a relentless fight against all undisciplined actions, factionism, and all forms of corruption.

c. To guard against infiltration into the party by persons who are injurious to the interests and moral beliefs of the working people, and by enemies of the working people.

23. The Central Control Committee may institute investigations against party members and candidates and impose penalties in accordance with the organizational regulations.

24. In addition to the Central Control Committee, all party organs and basic organ committees can conduct disciplinary investigations against party members and candidates and can render decisions; however, the decisions must be submitted to the higher party organ for review.

25. Decisions on expulsion or disciplinary punishment cannot be announced without the approval of the higher organ or of the Central Control Committee.

26. The Central Control Committee is subordinate to the jurisdiction of the Central Committee.

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X. MEGYE, JARAS, AREA (KORZET), CITY, AND CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES

27. The supervising organ of the megye party organization is the megye party conference, which democratically elects the member megye board of 31-41 members. During the interim between two megye conferences, the megye committee is the directing organ of the party megye organization. The megye committee elects a subcommittee consisting of 9-13 members from its membership to conduct routine matters and to unify and direct the party organizations. The megye committee meets monthly and the subcommittee meets weekly.

28. The supervising organ of all party organizations of the jaras of area is the jaras or area party conference, which elects a 25-31-member jaras or area committee. The jaras or area committee elects from its membership a jaras subcommittee consisting of 7-11 members to unify and direct the jaras party organizations.

29. The supervisory organs of the Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, and Pecs party organizations are the Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, and Pecs party conferences, respectively. Each of these has a committee consisting of 31-43 members. Each committee, in turn, elects a subcommittee of 7-11 members for the purpose of unifying and directing the party organizations. The Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, and Pecs party committees are directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Committee.

30. In Budapest, the party organization is composed of city district organs. The supervisory organ of the basic organizations of the city district is the city district party conference, which elects a city district committee of 31-41 members. Each city district, in turn, elects a subcommittee of 11-15 members to direct the city district, area, and plant basic organizations.

31. The supervisory organ of city party organizations is the city party conference, which elects a city committee of 25-31 members. In turn, each committee elects a subcommittee of 9-13 members to unify and direct the area and industrial basic organs.

32. The party may have only one central committee in each city and town. It has the task of unifying and directing all basic organizations and party members in the city or town.

33. A secretary and a deputy secretary are elected from the members of the party committee of each of the following: Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc, Pecs, and each county. A chairman and a secretary are elected in each city, area, and city district from the members of the party committee and basic organizations. The secretary directs the committee's work. He is responsible to his own committee and to the supervisory organ for his work. The chairman presides at committee and membership meetings, assists the secretary in the latter's work, and, together with the secretary, represents the party before other political parties, organizations, and authorities. Within the committee, work is divided. Each committee member directs a branch of party work: organization, training, cadre, propaganda, production, administration, mass organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, women's and youths' work, the cashier's department, etc.

34. The members of the megye, jaras, area, city, and city district committees are confirmed by the Central Committee. The Central Committee has authority to declare the election of a local committee or of members of a local committee null and void. In unusual circumstances, the Central Committee can appoint a temporary local committee.

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## XI. BASIC ORGANIZATIONS

35. The party structure is based on basic organizations. The basic organization is the smallest independent organizational unit, which cannot be subdivided. The basic organizations are the plant, area, village, and farm party organizations. Every basic organization is a supporting factor for the party in the accomplishment of the party's political, propaganda, and organizing work among the masses. To form a basic organization, at least three party members are required.
36. The tasks of the basic organization are as follows: formulation of the party's local policy, raising of the political level of party members, dissemination and popularization of policy, organization of membership, collection of membership dues, protection of the everyday interests of workers, and execution of party directives.
37. The supervising organ of the plant party organization with a membership of less than 1,000 is the plant party membership meeting, which elects a committee of 5-11 members. The plant party organizations are part of the city, city district, or town party organization and are under its jurisdiction.
38. Each plant party organization with a membership of more than 1,000 elects a committee. The most important among these organizations are subordinated directly to the Budapest party committee or, in rural areas, to the megye party committee.
39. In large industrial party organizations where a plant party committee exists, the shop party organization has the privileges of the basic organization.
40. The local organization in the cities, city districts, or larger towns which has a large membership is divided into area basic organizations. The area basic organization has a membership of 100-400. If membership exceeds 400, a new local organization may be formed with the permission of the supervisory organ. The supervisory organ of the area organization is the town and farm party membership meeting, which elects a committee of 3-11 members.
41. In the villages and farm groups, village and farm party organizations are operating. The supervisory organ of the farm party organization is the village membership meeting, which elects a committee of 3-11 members.
42. The affairs of a party organization whose membership does not exceed ten are conducted by a secretary elected by the party meeting, instead of a committee.
43. The committee of the basic organization is confirmed by the supervisory party organ.
44. All tasks set by the party are carried out by the party workers under the direction of the committee of the party organization. The party workers are the most class-conscious and devoted party members, elected on the basis of their party work and upon the recommendation of the committee of the local party organization by the party workers meeting.
45. The members of the basic organization are divided into groups of ten, headed by stewards, for the purpose of improving political and indoctrination work, getting acquainted with party members, inducing them to participate in party work, and collecting party dues.



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XII. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MUNICIPAL, MEGYE,  
AND TOWN GROUPS

46. Party members of the national assembly, municipal, and megye committees and town councils form parliamentary, municipal, megye, and town council groups, respectively. Each group is headed by a committee of 3-9 members. Each committee is confirmed by the appropriate supervisory organ and is subordinate to the appropriate local committee or directly to the Central Committee. All party members employed in the government, public administration, the mass organizations, and elsewhere are subordinate to the Central Committee or the local committee. The Central Committee or the local committee has the authority to recall the party members from the above bodies.

XIII. PARTY DISCIPLINE

47. The Hungarian Workers Party can fulfill its task only if it is an embodiment of discipline and organization. In the party iron discipline exists to which every party member and party organization is required to submit. This iron discipline does not exclude but rather postulates purposeful and voluntary subordination, because only deliberate discipline can be true iron discipline. The discipline in the party can be realized only with unity of purpose and with the complete and unconditional unity of action of all party members. Only through a relentless fight against compromising and undisciplined elements can the Hungarian Workers Party safeguard unity and discipline in its ranks.

48. There is no place in the party for individual groups or factions, because these undermine the unity and fighting preparedness of the party. Anyone who organizes a faction within the party or participates in it, or slackens or disrupts party discipline must be removed from the party ranks as an enemy.

49. Members who harm the discipline or morale of the party or oppose the party's political line may be subject to penalties by the party organization, the local and supervisory committees, and the Central Committee. The party penalty to be imposed is, according to the gravity of the case, reprimand, censure, severe censure, or expulsion from the party. The penalty can be appealed to the supervisory party organization, as far as the National Congress. The penalty remains in effect until it is modified by a supervisory organ.

50. The Central Committee may institute proceedings and take action against any party member who violates the discipline or interests of the party. The Central Committee is authorized to dissolve any party organizations or local committees whose operations are opposed to the aims, policy, or statutes of the party.

51. The statutes of the Hungarian Workers Party are the constitution of the party and constitute a law for every party member and party organization.

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