

# **BNC – Building a New Culture**

## **International Federation of National BNCs**

### **Fundamental Principles**

#### **Preamble**

We, the signers of the BNC-Manifesto, in the spirit of realizing the common good of all humanity in a healthy natural environment, hereby establish the Federation BNC as umbrella organization of all future national BNCs as based on the BNC-Manifesto.

The BNC (Federation of national BNCs) envisions a fundamental transformation of our ways of living, economy and technologies, in order that we as a country no longer exceed the limits to which nature can be taxed. The BNC also aims for a much fairer distribution of income and private assets based on the awareness that inner, non-material riches contribute in a most essential way to happiness in life for all persons. With this in mind, we strive for more modest needs for material well-being.

The BNC considers its goals to have been achieved when these profound transformations in human culture—including education—are anchored in the constitutions (basic laws) of the respective nations. The strategy of the BNC is regional, national and global.

*This preamble shall appear first and foremost in all statutes/bylaws of the national BNCs. With a change in the second line; “ We, ..., hereby establish the national BNC Country X as based ...”*

#### **Self-Perception of the Fundamental Principles**

These fundamental principles comprise an ideal unity among the national BNCs in realizing global coherence of the movement. These fundamental principles will be supplemented with statutes/bylaws at the time of the legal establishment of the Federation BNC.

#### **1 Foundation**

The BNCs, including here both the Federation and national BNCs, find their foundation in the BNC-Manifesto. The Manifesto provides the national BNCs with a unified purpose and strategy. The Manifesto will be updated every few years within the framework of the Federation by delegations of the national BNCs, based on latest knowledge and needs.

#### **2 Objectives**

- 1 The BNC (Federation) deals with the development of national BNCs, lending its support in achieving that goal.
- 2 The BNC maintains unity in the diversity of the national BNCs.

With this in mind, the BNC sees to it that the **Standard Formulations of the BNCs** (see point 5 below) are anchored uniformly in the statutes/bylaws of the national BNCs.

The BNC provides the national BNCs with a common foundation characterized by a common orientation – the common good of all human beings – and common objectives.

This definition of objectives includes as a priority the anchoring of new social objectives in the national constitutions, in order that the orientation of societies can be harmonized with our need for peace with nature and peace among all peoples. This also involves creating social systems in a manner whereby a dignified future worth living for all can be seen as possible. These goals require a transformation of consciousness in the populations of many countries. Such a transformation will be strived for consciously as a concrete goal, especially by means of people's initiatives and popular petitions.

3 The BNC operates a multilingual website.

4 The BNC promotes cooperation and intensive knowledge-sharing among the BNCs.

### **3 Means**

1 The BNC elects a business manager and operates a business office.

2 In an initial phase these functions will be attached to the BNC Switzerland (business office) to reduce costs, achieve greater efficiency and provide good information.

3 The expenses of the BNC business management and business office will be borne in an initial phase partially by the BNC Switzerland. However, clearly defined expenses will be handled separately and billed yearly to the national BNCs based on the respective number of members and income. These expenses shall not exceed 5% of the income of the national BNCs.

### **4 Transitional Provision**

The BNC replaces as Federation the pBNK (the preparatory association of October 2019) as of October 2019. The pBNK will be disbanded with the establishment of the BNC Switzerland (most probably in November 2020). With the dissolution of the pBNC, the initiator of the BNC, Gil Ducommun, no longer has any entitlement to the presidium. In order to maintain the continuity of the original impulse it has been suggested that he be elected as the business manager of the BNC. As soon as three to four BNCs have been created, they should act together to draft and determine the statutes of the Federation.

### **5 Standard Formulations of the BNCs**

The following standard formulations are to be adopted by all national BNCs in their statutes/bylaws, although justifiable slight adjustments are possible.

The goal of these standard elements is the unity/coherence of the BNCs. The national BNCs thus receive both in spirit as well as in orientation a common foundation. It is a matter of uniformity in diversity, a balance of unity and variety.

#### **Article Stating Purpose**

BNC Land X makes a significant contribution to transforming the culture of its country in the sense of the preamble. For this purpose, it drafts, together with other forces for renewal, new goals for society regarding fundamental themes and considered as articles of a constitution. Together with a broad coalition it brings these new goals for society into the public sphere for signing by a large number of people. In this way, the population of a country expresses what it wants: how it envisions a dignified future and a life worth living.

These constitutional articles are delivered to the authorities after collecting signatures.

Together with the coalition of forces for renewal, BNC Land X organizes the necessary “pressure from below” (from the civil society) in order that the process of constitutional change is forwarded on the level of government and parliament.

### **Strategy – Procedure**

All national BNCs draft their national strategy and a corresponding method of procedure based on their national context.

The national BNC Land X pools positive, constructive energies while developing new ideas for goals. It works non-violently; civil disobedience can be considered as a means.

The goal of the strategy and the approaches of BNC Land X is a transformation of consciousness of the majority of the people in fundamental spheres of life. The necessary formation of opinion takes place principally via the media and debates, which accompany the lengthy process starting with collecting signatures and submitting proposals for the constitution up to and including the ensuing political debates in the sovereign (houses of parliament, citizens, society). This should also lead to a growth in the democratic consciousness of the people by experiencing the creative energy that civil society can develop.

### **Membership**

The members of BNC Land X affix their signatures to the BNK-Manifesto in a show of agreement with its ideals. In this way they express their support and endorsement of the basic contents of the Manifesto. In case of serious infringements going against the spirit of the BNC-Manifesto, a national BNC can undertake the exclusion of a member.

Services of the members for a national BNC or for the Federation are carried out unremunerated on a voluntary basis, except when the Executive Board or the Federation decides on a remuneration of those services.

### **Executive Board**

The national BNCs have the structure of an association.

The Executive Board is composed of at least five members. The chairmanship/presidium will be occupied as much as possible by a woman and a man.

Based on the strategy adopted by the members of BNC Land X, the executive board in each case drafts a course of action and develops it continuously according to the experiences it makes with it.

In their internal relationship, the following four principles apply regarding the structure and the work of the executive board:

1. Strict avoidance of concentration of power in individual persons or small groups.
2. Freedom from hierarchy: The overall responsibility lies with the collective, whereas departmental responsibility is delegated to the responsible parties in the departments in a relationship of trust.
3. In case a certain power must be located in a function, counterbalances will be created for this, and occupation of the function rotates at the end of a year at latest.
4. Decision-making processes and meetings shall be moderated competently. The moderator shall make sure that all participants are involved *and* that the processes proceed efficiently.

Thanks to electronic means of communication, as much as possible persons who do not physically participate in a meeting should be involved in the decision-making process.

In the external relationship, the demands and regulations shall be fulfilled according to the national provisions/circumstances.

### **Identity**

The BNC Land X presents itself with the Corporate Design of the BNC. National BNCs can operate individual websites.

### **Matronage/Patronage of the BNC**

The national BNC Land X contributes to creating the common Matronage/Patronage of the BNC Federation. It is composed of nationally or internationally recognized persons who sign the BNC Manifesto and thus declare their support of the essential contents of the Manifesto.

### **Financing of the BNC Federation**

According to the needs of the BNC Federation and to the extent that this is possible, the national BNC Land X makes a financial contribution in agreement with the number of members to cover the costs of the BNC (website, business office, necessary trips).

The Founding Assembly of the BNK

Bern, August 29, 2020

### **Resolution:**

These fundamental principles were ratified unanimously at the founding assembly of the Federation BNK on August 29, 2020 at Kursaal Bern by 45 attending members of the pBNC.