

SETAC LATIN AMERICA CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Latin America (SETAC LA).

Article II. Purpose

1. The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) is a nonprofit, worldwide professional society established to provide a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study, analysis, and solution of environmental problems, management and regulation of natural resources, education, and research and development. SETAC is an open and democratic organization dealing with environmental sciences. SETAC operates in a broad social context, reflecting the needs of the environment and people and their interactions. Application of sound science plays a key role in this process.
2. SETAC's mission is to support the development of principles and practices for protection, enhancement and management of sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity.
3. Aware of the fact that environmental quality is determined by many different factors, SETAC provides the central scientific arena for sustainable high quality environments on a worldwide basis. It propagates and facilitates the translation of environmental science into policy making.
4. Specific objectives of the Society are:
 - a) To promote research, education, communication and training in the environmental sciences.
 - b) To promote the application of interdisciplinary environmental sciences in managing chemicals and other stressors.
 - c) To participate in scientific interpretation and communication of exposure to and effects of environmental stressors, ecological risk assessment/management, and solutions for global environmental problems.
 - d) To provide forums for communication and interactions among professionals on a multi-sector, interdisciplinary, and multinational basis on environmental issues.
 - e) To promote the development of principles and practices for sustainable environments, considering appropriate ecological, economic, and social aspects.

Article III. Membership

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of: Members, Associate Members, Senior Associate Members, Emeritus Members, Sustaining Members and Affiliate Members. Members, Emeritus Members and Associate Members constitute the voting membership of the Society; Members and Emeritus Members may hold office.
2. Students may be Members or Associate Members depending on their level of experience.
3. Members are qualified professionals who share the stated purpose of the Society and who have education, research or applied experience in environmental sciences, education and management.
4. Associate Members are persons who share the stated purpose of the Society and are engaged in activities leading towards meeting the education or experience requirements of a Member.

5. Emeritus Members are those qualified voting members selected and so honored in recognition of their contribution to environmental sciences, education and management.
6. Sustaining Members are organizations, institutions, associations, foundations or individuals who wish to foster the purpose of the Society.
7. Affiliate Members are those individuals or non-profit organizations, institutions, foundations or associations concerned with the affairs and purpose of the Society.
8. Membership to all of the above membership classes require the payment of dues as determined by the SETAC World Council (SWC). Requirements and benefits for each class of membership are defined in the By-Laws.

Article IV. Management and Elections

1. The affairs of SETAC LA shall be managed by the membership through the Board of Directors and Executive Committee in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution contains the core values and general structure of the Society. The By-Laws contain definitions and the operational procedures of the Society.
2. The SETAC LA Board of Directors shall normally consist of fifteen (15) voting members, including the Immediate Past President. The SETAC LA Board of Directors shall be elected from the voting membership of SETAC LA with the goal of equal representation from government, business and academia.
3. The Assistant Executive Director shall be appointed and serve at the discretion of the Executive Director of SETAC and the SETAC LA Board of Directors. The Assistant Executive Director and SETAC Executive Director will serve as an *ex-officio* member of the Board of Directors.
4. Members of the Board of Directors should strive for consensus on all matters
5. All members of SETAC LA may attend any governing body meeting, except executive sessions.
6. One meeting of the SETAC LA Board of Directors, normally in October, shall be designated the Annual General Business Meeting.
7. The Board of Director members serve for a three (3) year term to be staggered so that normally no more than five (5) terms expire in any one (1) year.
8. The Officers of the Board of Directors shall be four (4): President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Immediate Past-President.
9. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, as presiding officer, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, the Assistant Executive Director (*ex-officio*) and one other voting member of the SETAC LA Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors.
10. The Vice-President shall be elected for a single term of one (1) year at the conclusion of which the Vice-President shall serve as President for one (1) year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.
11. If a vacancy, except that of President occurs between terms, the membership of the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term. Should the post of President become vacant for any reason the Vice-President shall assume the post of President and serve the remainder of the term as acting President and shall succeed to the Presidency.

Article V. Duties

1. The duties of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer are those customarily performed by such officers, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.

2. The Executive Committee will provide day-to day executive direction and guidance to SETAC LA.
3. The duties of the SETAC LA Board of Directors shall be:
 - a) To manage the business, functions, programs and activities of the SETAC LA;
 - b) To establish policy and take such action as seems desirable and appropriate to promote the mission and objectives of SETAC LA and SETAC.
4. The duties of the Assistant Executive Director shall be determined by the Executive Director and President of SETAC LA.

Article VI. Quorum

1. Greater than 50% of the current voting members of the SETAC LA Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.
2. Three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII. Amendment

1. The Board of Directors or the voting membership of SETAC LA may propose an amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws. An amendment to the Constitution shall require a minimum of 30 days written notice and shall require approval by the voting membership. The Board of Directors approves amendments to the By-Laws.

Article VIII. Procedures

1. Procedures and other items not specified in this Constitution or in the By-Laws or by action of the SETAC LA Board of Directors will comply with the accepted norms of common courtesy and manners.

Article IX. Dissolution

1. Dissolution of the Society, for any cause, shall follow the same procedure as Constitutional amendments and must be in accordance with the applicable regulations of the country of incorporation.
2. All funds and other assets of SETAC LA, including any rights to funds, present or future, contingent or action, shall be irrevocable, assigned, and transferred to the SWC.