

**MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA
STATUTE**

2

CONTENTS

Preamble

Article 1 Name

Article 2 Objectives

Article 3 Policy

Article 4 Membership

Article 5 Council

Article 6 Duties of Council and Officials

Article 7 Dissolution

Article 8 Amendments

Article 9 Election and Methods of Election

Article 10 General Meeting

Article 11 General Assembly

Article 12 Category Committee Meetings and Procedure

Article 13 Council Meetings and Procedure

Article 14 Disciplinary Action

Article 15 Procedures for Amendments to Statute

Article 16 Industrial Action

Article 17 Transitional Clause

Appendix 1 Affiliations

Appendix 2 Membership

Appendix 3 Procedures at General Meetings and other MAM Meetings

Appendix 4 Ethics

PREAMBLE

All reference made in the masculine shall be deemed to refer to both sexes.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The official name of the association shall be the “MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA” (hereinafter referred to as MAM).

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES

- i. The principle purpose of the MAM shall be to regulate relations between members in the profession and between members and their employers or employers’ associations in accordance with the Laws of Malta.
 - ii. The ancillary objects of the Association shall be:
 - a. to unite all members of the medical profession and to safeguard their interests;
 - b. to provide advice and assistance to its members in their mutual relations, in their relations with State or other authorities and organisations whether individual or as a profession;
 - c. to provide spokesmen for any member seeking the assistance of the MAM;
 - d. to promote the ethical, scientific, professional, cultural, social and economic interests of the medical profession;
 - e. to secure their freedom of practice in the interests of the patient individually and of the community as a whole;
 - f. to strengthen the position and unanimity of the medical profession in order to maintain the highest possible standards of education, ethics and patient care;
 - g. to work with other national and international bodies to foster its aims (see Appendix 1).
- In fulfilling these objectives, the MAM shall be guided by the established sociocultural and ethical principles of the Maltese medical profession.

ARTICLE 3: POLICY

The policies of the MAM shall be formulated and implemented by the MAM’s Council within the provisions of the Statute and as laid down by the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the association shall consist of:

- i. ordinary members who shall be the persons who have qualified for the degree of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Malta or who have

obtained an equivalent medical qualification recognised by the Medical Council of Malta (whether permanent or temporary);

- ii. associate members shall be medical students who are pursuing a clinical course of studies leading to a medical qualification in the University of Malta;
- iii. honorary members shall be medical practitioners who, in the opinion of the Council merits such recognition. The Council shall propose the candidature at a General Meeting for approval;
- iv. Honorary President shall be a medical practitioner who, in the opinion of the Council, merits such recognition. The Council shall propose the candidate at a General Meeting for approval. There can be only one Honorary President of the MAM at any one time.

Only ordinary members [as defined in 4(1)] shall be eligible to vote or hold office or participate at meetings. Associate members may only participate as observers.

ARTICLE 5: COUNCIL

A. The Council of the MAM shall consist of eleven members:

- i. President
- ii. Vice-President
- iii. General Secretary
- iv. Treasurer
- v. International Secretary
- vi. Six Category Members

B. The Council shall have the power:

- i. To administer the affairs of the MAM in accordance with the provisions of this statute;
- ii. To exercise such powers and do of such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the MAM and are not by the provision of the Statute directed to be exercised or done by a General Meeting;
- iii. To co-opt additional members to the Council as deemed necessary. Such members shall enjoy all the benefits of Council members but shall not be allowed to vote;
- iv. To formulate and implement policies in accordance to article 3.

C. The five officials stipulated in article 5.A.i. to v. shall be elected by all Council members as indicated in Article 9.6.1 of the statute.

ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF COUNCIL AND ITS OFFICIALS

A. The duties of the Council shall include:

- i. The enrolment of members;

- ii. Taking any action considered necessary to safeguard and/or to further the interests of the MAM and to protect the interests of its members;
- iii. Convening the statutory general meeting and other general meetings or general assembly;
- iv. Bringing before meetings any matter considered necessary;
- v. Holding Council meetings as required;
- vi. Holding and controlling the funds of the MAM;
- vii. Appointing delegates to represent the MAM in any dealings with the Government or any other authority or body;
- viii. Delegating one or more members to represent the Union in any legal proceedings;
- ix. Appointing sub-committees for any specific activity or responsibility. Each sub-committee shall report back to the Council.

B. The duties of the President shall include:

- i. Convening all general meetings and council meetings and general assemblies;
- ii. Presiding at general assembly and council meetings;
- iii. At general meetings, to immediately initiate the election by the assembly of a chairman who will chair the meeting;
- iv. Addressing the annual general meeting and reporting on the activities of the Association during the previous years.

C. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall take over the functions of the President, and also shall act in the capacity of Union Liaison Officer.

D. It shall be the duty of the General Secretary:

- i. To notify members of any council, general meeting or general assembly convened at the request of the President and as article 10.2;
- ii. To keep a record of all businesses transacted at general assemblies, general meetings and council meetings;
- iii. To preserve and file all letters received and a copy of all letters sent by him or on his behalf by any other official;
- iv. To keep a nominal roll of all members, their titles, qualifications, addresses and professional status and to keep an updated register of the various categories as listed in article 9.5;
- v. To deal with all correspondence and to sign all official notices and communications of the Association;
- vi. To transmit to the Registrar of Trade Unions every year by not later than fifteen days after the first day of June, the number of members together with any alterations that may have been made in the statute during the previous year, and otherwise to comply with the current provisions of the Industrial Relations Act, 1976 and other laws of Malta.

E. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer:

- i. To be responsible for all monies and funds of the Association;

- ii. To receive all subscriptions and payments due to the Association, and to effect such payment of debts incurred by the Association on the authorisation of the Council;
- iii. To deposit in the name of the Association into a local bank such cash as is not required for immediate use;
- iv. To keep an accurate record of financial transactions undertaken on behalf of the Association;
- v. To render to the annual general meeting an account of financial transactions undertaken during his term of office and suggest the appointment of a qualified auditor for the forthcoming year;
- vi. To send to the Registrar of Trade Unions a copy of his audited account within the time stipulated in section 12© of the Industrial Relations Act, 1978.

F. Duties of the International Secretary

The International Secretary shall be responsible for all international affiliations in accordance to article 2g, of this statute.

The International Secretary shall:

- i. Keep liaison with all international bodies communicating with the MAM;
- ii. Preserve and file all letters received and sent by him or on his behalf by any other official;
- iii. Shall endeavour to work with international bodies to foster the aims of the MAM;
- iv. Shall present a written report to the council whenever he or his delegate attends an international event;
- v. Shall obtain the council's consent for each event attended or organised.

G. Duties of the Union Liaison Officer:

The Union Liaison Officer shall be responsible for directing all activities of union members performed in safeguarding their rights and duties.

He shall

- i. Establish an action committee to select and direct all such activities. This committee shall be selected by the union liaison officer but all its members must be approved by the council;
- ii. In selecting activities to be taken by union members, the action committee shall act as an advisory body only and shall initiate action on the expressed order of the council. However, when circumstances so demand, the council may delegate further rights to the action committee.

ARTICLE 7: DISSOLUTION

The MAM shall be dissolved if three fourths or more of its members present at a general meeting vote for such an action at a general meeting called for this specific purpose, or if less than seven members remain to be registered at any time.

The funds of the MAM shall be divided among the members remaining on the register of the MAM at the time.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS

The consent of sixty seven per cent (67%) of members at a general meeting is required for a change in articles one to eight.

The consent of a simple majority of members at a regularly convened general meeting is required for a change in articles nine to seventeen and to the statute's appendices.

ARTICLE 9: ELECTIONS AND METHODS OF ELECTION

9.1 The elections of the council shall take place every three years except when the whole council resigns prior to its term of office. In such cases, elections shall be held immediately.

9.2 All elections shall be conducted by the MAM Electoral Commission which shall be appointed at the annual statutory general assembly.

9.3 The MAM Electoral Commission shall be composed of three election commissioners (one of whom shall be elected to chair) and two substitute election commissioners.

9.4 The Election Commissioners shall receive the nominations of candidates standing for elections duly proposed seconded and accepted in writing.

The names, addresses, qualifications and category (see 9.5) shall be kept secret until they are notified to fully subscribed members by the Election Commissioners at least seven days prior to the date or dates fixed for the elections.

9.5 For the purpose of elections, members of the MAM shall be allocated to one of the following categories according to their sphere of professional activities as follows:

Category "A": comprising Directors/Chairmen of Departments, Consultants and full-time members of Academic Staff at the University of Malta;

Category "B": comprising Resident specialists and higher specialist trainees;

Category "C": comprising Basic Specialist trainees and Foundation doctors;

Category "D": comprising Medical Officers in Health Centres and GP trainees;

Category "E": comprising Specialists and Family Doctors not engaged primarily in full time service with Government

Category "F": comprising all other members not included in the above categories.

It is incumbent on the members to inform the General Secretary when they should be allocated to a different category (to be listed in article 6, D, iv).

9.6 Elections shall be held in the following manner:

i. A ballot shall be held among all eligible members of the MAM to elect five members to the Council. Candidates shall be from all eligible members. Each eligible member may vote for a maximum of five candidates. The five with the highest number of votes obtained shall be elected as Council members. The President, Vice-President, General Secretary, International Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a simple majority vote from among the five Council members elected in this ballot as provided in Article 9.12 of the statute. The maximum number of Councilmembers from this ballot *belonging* to a single category shall be limited to two. Once the council **officials** are elected, they will occupy their post until the council is dissolved, irrespective of changes in their categories.

ii. A second ballot shall be held for each category (listed in Article 9.5) to elect a Category Committee consisting of five members. Only members registered in a specific category (as specified in Article 6.D.iv) may vote for that particular category committee. Each voter may vote **ONLY** one candidate in each voter's category. The candidate obtaining the maximum number of votes shall represent that category on the Council

iii. Eligible members can contest both ballots simultaneously but if elected in both ballots, a member can only retain one post and shall be required to resign from the second post, which post shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article 9.14 of the statute.

9.7 A postal ballot shall be held as follows:

- i. Ballot papers, duly signed by at least two of the election commissioners, shall be sent to each eligible member;
- ii. Ballot papers shall be returned to the Election Commissioners by the time and date specified;
- iii. Only fully-subscribed ordinary members shall be eligible to exercise their voting rights and to contest elections;
- iv. Suspended members have no right to vote or contest elections;
- v. Nominations for candidates shall not be accepted from officials of a political party or where a conflict of interest is apparent. The latter shall be decided by the Electoral Commission and its decision shall be final and shall not be in any way contested in any Court or Tribunal.

9.8 The place and time at which the counting of votes is to take place shall be notified by the Election Commission at least one week prior to the date or dates fixed for the elections.

9.9 Any decisions regarding the conduct of elections shall be taken by the Electoral Commission and all decisions are deemed final.

9.10 The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall present the final results of the elections to the out-going and caretaker President.

9.11 The out-going and caretaker President so notified shall be responsible for the notification in writing of the election results to all the members of the Association. The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall convene and chair the first Council meeting, which meeting shall elect the President of the Association and the other four officers as per article 9.12 of the statute.

9.12 The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall convene and chair the Council for the first time within twenty days from its election to office. At the first meeting, the Council shall immediately elect the following officers: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, International Secretary and Treasurer as per article 9.6 of the statute.

9.13 The President shall not be eligible to hold office for more than two consecutive three-year terms of office.

9.14 In the case of resignations or exclusion of one or more Council members or Category Committee members, the election commission shall be informed and it shall indicate the respective new member according to the results of the past elections. If no such replacement is possible, bye-elections shall be held.

9.15 In the case of a tie between candidates bye-elections shall be held.

9.16 Bye-elections shall be conducted by the election commission following the same procedures as the statutory elections.

ARTICLE 10: METHODS OF CONVENING AND PROCEDURE OF A GENERAL MEETING

10.1 There shall be a statutory annual general meeting convened by the President of the MAM in the month of February.

10.2 Extraordinary general meetings may be called when:

i. The council shall deem it necessary;

ii. The general assembly vote by simple majority to call for a general meeting;

iii. A request is made by no less than ten per cent (10%) of members. Such a request must be sent in writing to the President together with the object of the desired assembly. Such a meeting shall be called within ten days of the application.

iv. When a notice of no confidence is passed on the President by the council. In this general meeting, the council may request the removal of the President.

10

10.3 Notice of a general meeting shall be posted to each member at least one week before. In the eventuality of an urgent extraordinary general meeting, members may be informed in whatever manner is deemed best by the President.

10.4 Ten per cent (10%) of members constitute a quorum at a general meeting. Should this quorum not be met, the general meeting shall take place but no changes in statute shall be allowed. However, if the meeting is adjourned, it can be reconvened within two weeks and a change in statute

is allowed even if no quorum is reached.

10.5 Procedure at General Meeting shall be as indicated in Appendix 3.

10.6 The General Meeting is empowered to:

- i. Change the statute (except as indicated in article 10.4) as indicated in articles 8 to 15;
- ii. Adopt motions, to direct MAM policies provided these are according to statute;
- iii. To decide on the minutes, President's, Treasurer's and any other reports;
- iv. To decide to expel members on the advice of the Council;
- v. To appoint candidates as Hon Members and as Hon President on the advice of the Council;
- vi. To decide whether or not to accept a vote of no confidence adopted by the Council towards the President. In the case of acceptance, the President shall be immediately released of his duties;
- vii. To do anything indicated and/or ancillary to the above.

ARTICLE 11: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- i. A General Assembly shall be a combined meeting of the Council, the six category committees and two representatives from each of the recognised academic specialist societies;
- ii. A General Assembly shall be convened when a request is made by not less than 10% of the members in a general assembly.
- iii. Convening and procedures shall be as for the General Meeting;
- iv. The General Assembly shall act as a consultative body only and may not decide on changes in statute or policies;
- v. The General Assembly may call a General Meeting as in Article 10.2.ii
For the purpose of Article 11.1., a recognised academic specialist society shall mean an organisation where the only full members are medical specialists and which fulfils the following criteria for recognition:
 - i. Members and officials of the executive committee or similar organ thereof, are elected following fair and regular elections;

- ii. Regulated by a statute which is available to the M.A.M. Council;
- iii. Actively participates in post-graduate education and continuing professional development;
- iv. Has a minimum of ten full members.
- v. Follows the guidelines issued from time to time by the World Medical Association, the European Union of General Practitioners and the European Union of Medical Specialists.

Academic specialist societies must submit an application for recognition to the General Secretary of the Association.

ARTICLE 12: CATEGORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- i. Category committees shall consist of five members of the respective category elected during the MAM elections;
 - ii. Category committees shall be chaired by the candidate obtaining the highest number of votes. He shall also represent that category in the Council;
 - iii. Convening and procedures of a Category Committee shall be as for General Meeting;
 - iv. Whenever there is an insufficient number of candidates for election, the chairperson of the Category Committee shall be empowered to co-opt members to fill the Category Committee complement of five members.
 - v. All members of a Category Committee shall cease to be eligible to represent that particular category upon ceasing to belong to that category;
 - vi. The function of each Category Committee shall be:
 - a. To act as a consultative body, making suggestions and forwarding recommendations to the Council through its representation on the Council;
 - b. Dealing initially with any problem that may arise in their particular category of members, within the parameters set by the Council'
 - c. Holding discussions and conducting negotiations with the employer, where appropriate on matters affecting the members of that particular category, within the parameters set by Council. The Council may, however, decide to appoint a representative from among its members to form part of the category delegation during any such negotiation.
 - d. To inform the General Secretary of all its activities.
- Finalisation and ratification of any agreement shall be the sole prerogative of the Council of the MAM.

ARTICLE 13: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Council and its duties and that of its individual members are indicated in articles 5 and 6.

13.1 Without prejudice to article 9.12 and 13.2 of this statute, meetings of the Council shall be held at such time and place and upon such notice as the Council may determine.

13.2 The Council shall meet not less than once a month and shall be presided over by the President, or in his absence, by his delegate in the same order of seniority given in article 5A.

13.3 The quorum at Council meetings shall be five members.

13.4 The General Secretary shall notify the Council meetings of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting.

13.5 If a request in writing for the holding of a meeting is made by three Council members, the President shall convene a meeting within eight days of the request.

13.6 Any member who is absent from five consecutive meetings without justification shall cease to be a member thereof.

13.7 Procedures at Council meetings:

i. At the beginning the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting shall be read and if necessary corrected. Next, all correspondence is read, followed by discussions on all items on the agenda;

ii. In case of postponement or adjournment, all remaining items on the agenda shall take precedence at the next meeting;

iii. All discussions shall be confidential. Any member who acts in contravention of the rule may be suspended by the Council for a term as defined by the Council;

iv. Unless otherwise specified, all procedures at the Council meeting shall follow the same regulation as the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 14: DISCIPLINARY ACTION

I. An ordinary or associate member shall have his membership suspended if:

a. he fails to abide by the provision of appendix 2 of this statute;

b. his actions are contrary to the aims, policies and directives of the MAM and the Council.

II. A motion of suspension of membership must be upheld by a two-thirds majority of the Council. Suspended members lose all rights or representation and voting rights.

III. The motion of suspension may be withdrawn at the General Meeting or changed to expulsion from union on the advice of the Council.

IV. Any expelled member, after a year of his expulsion, may re-apply for membership to the General Secretary. In order that he may be considered by the Council, his name must be proposed and seconded by two members of the association.

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE

This statute may be amended by a resolution duly carried by the required majority (as in article 8) cast by members present at a General Meeting of the MAM.

The notice of each amendment shall have been sent to all members resident in Malta at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be taken. Any such resolution, if duly carried, shall have immediate effect and registration of these amendments is to be made with the Registrar of Trade Unions according to the Law.

ARTICLE 16: INDUSTRIAL ACTION

- i. Industrial action shall, because of the nature of the medical profession, be seen as the final alternative when all other solutions have failed to produce the desired outcome within a reasonable time.
- ii. Industrial action shall be decided upon by the Council of the MAM but the nature and its execution shall be under the direction of the Union Liaison Officer and his Action Committee.

ARTICLE 17: TRANSITORY PROVISION

- i. This statute shall come into force and shall be effective for all effects and purposes of law upon expiration of the term of office of the present council;
- ii. Until such time as this statute shall come into force in terms of the immediately preceding paragraph of this article, the statute now in force shall remain so for all effects and purposes of law notwithstanding anything contained in this statute.
- iii. Upon the coming into force of this statute in terms of the provisions of this section, the statute now in force shall be deemed to have been repealed and substituted by this statute

PROVIDED THAT until such time as a new Council is elected in terms and in accordance with the provisions of this statute and until such time as said Council shall effectively take over, the present Council elected in virtue of the statute now in force shall perform all the functions of a caretaker Council with all the powers granted to the Council under this statute as if only with respect to the powers of the caretaker Council, it were elected under this statute and not the statute now in force.

APPENDIX 1: AFFILIATIONS

The MAM Council shall decide on all new, national and international affiliations but shall get approval for these at the following General Meeting.

Only the General Meeting, on the advice of the Council can terminate any affiliation.

The following are the MAM's affiliation and shall be automatically changed herein when such a change is taken at a General Meeting.

1. Malta Federation of Professional Associations
2. Confederation of Malta Trade Unions
3. *International Affiliations*
 - A. Full member of:
 1. The World Medical Association (WMA)
 2. The European Union of Medical Officers [General Practitioners] (UEMO)
 3. The Permanent Working Group of European Junior Doctors (PWG)
 4. The Forum: WHO – European Medical Associations (EFMA)
 5. The International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC)
 6. The Commonwealth Medical Associations (CMA)
 - B. Observers at: The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CP)
 - C. Associate members at: The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)

APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the MAM shall consist (as stipulated in article 4 of the main text of this statute) of:

- i. Ordinary Members
 - ii. Associate Members
 - iii. Honorary Members
 - iv. An Honorary President
- i. Medical professionals or students requesting to join the MAM to enjoy its privileges and duties shall do so by formally applying on the appropriate forms to the General Secretary.
 - ii. New members shall pay an enrolment fee as stipulated in the Treasurer's report in the last General Meeting;
 - iii. Members and associate members shall pay an annual subscription fee as stipulated in the Treasurer's report in the last General Meeting.
 - iv. Members shall automatically suspend themselves if they fail to pay their annual subscription for three months. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to notify members so in default.
If a request by a suspended member for reinstatement is made to the General Secretary within six months, he may be reinstated upon payment of all dues. Reinstatement of suspended members after six months shall require renewed payment of enrolment fees and payment of all dues.
 - v. Members may resign fourteen days after notifying the General Secretary in writing of their intentions.

vi. All members shall have a membership card which must be shown on demand when so requested, as proof of continuing membership of the MAM.

APPENDIX 3: PROCEDURES AT GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER MEETINGS

Article 1

- i. The President shall preside over all meetings and assemblies as stipulated in article 6.B of the statute
- ii. Reading of minutes and reports:
 - a. Prior to the general meeting, the minutes of the preceding general meeting, together with the treasurer's reports and any other reports shall be published;
 - b. The minutes, treasurer's and other reports shall be read and discussed only if a formal request to this effect is made.

Article 2 – Matters for Discussion

- i. Should any member desire to propose any motion and/or any resolution for discussion at a General Meeting he is to forward it in writing to the General Secretary three days before the General Meeting in order that it may be introduced in the agenda.
- ii. Amendments may be presented to any such motion without prior notice provided that a written statement thereof duly proposed and seconded by handed to the Chairman.
- iii. No person may address the meeting more than once on the same matter. The mover of the original motion, however, shall conclude the debate. The mover of an amendment shall have the right to do so before the amendment is put to the vote.
- iv. The proposer may withdraw a motion or amendment.

Article 3- Method of Voting

- i. Voting shall be by show of hands. If more than a quarter of those present are in favour of a secret ballot, this procedure shall be followed.

ii. The Chairman shall not have a vote, but only a casting vote.

Article 4 – Procedural Motion

i. Procedural motions shall take a precedence over all terms of address to the Chair apart from the point of order, but shall not carry the right to interrupt the current speaker.

ii. In the event of a procedural motion being proposed, the chairman shall ask for a seconder and in the event of the motion being seconded, shall after a brief introduction by the proposer immediately put the procedural motion to the vote.

iii. In the event of a procedural motion being carried it shall be put into effect immediately.

iv. The following shall constitute procedural motions:

a. challenge to the ruling of the Chairman;

b. no confidence in the chair;

c. the debate on a motion be reopened;

d. the meeting be adjourned;

e. the meeting proceed immediately to the vote;

f. the meeting proceed to the next business;

g. consideration of the motion on the table be postponed;

h. agenda be suspended or resumed;

i. the meeting take an unofficial vote'

j. a discussion be not recorded in the minutes;

k. voting by secret ballot;

l. observers leave the hall

v. All procedural motions require a simple majority except those mentioned under 4 iv: a, b, h, k. Articles 4 iv: a, b, h require a two-thirds majority, Article 4 iv: k requires the consensus of a quarter of those present.

Article 5 – Point of Order

i. A point of order shall be concerned with the enforcement of interpretation of the aims, bye-laws, statute or standing orders of the MAM.

ii. A point of order shall take precedence over all other terms of address to the chair and shall require the chairman immediately to allow the member to make his point of order.

iii. In the event of any member using the point of order to make statements which are not directly related to the defined concern he shall earn the reprimand of the Chairman. If reprimanded on three occasions he shall personally forfeit to use the point of order for the rest of the meeting.

Article 6 – Point of Information

i. A point of information to somebody shall be a brief information of a fact which is of value and relevance at this moment to the current speaker or to the assembly at large. It can in no case be abused to express a personal point of view.

- ii. A point of information from someone serves to put a question to the current speaker or to the assembly at large, which is relevant to the particular debate.
- iii. When a point of information is indicated to the Chairman while a speaker is exercising his right of speech, the Chairman will ask the speaker whether he will accept the point of information. In the event of his refusing it, the Chairman must take it as soon as the former has finished.

Article 7 – The Power of the Chairman

- i. Unless contested as in article 4 iv a, the Chairman's Ruling shall be final.
- ii. The Chairman shall have the power to suspend temporarily or permanently from the meeting, any person who misbehaves. The person so suspended shall leave the meeting and will take no further part in the discussion and voting in his absence.
- iii. In the event of disorder, the Chairman shall have the power to suspend the sitting for such time as he shall deem fit, or to adjourn the meeting,
- iv. Suspension of the MAM regulations governing general meetings shall require the consent of a simple majority.

Article 8

These procedures shall apply to all levels of meetings of the MAM.

APPENDIX 4: ETHICS

The members of the Medical Association of Malta shall abide by the following Code of Ethics (adapted from International Code of Medical Ethics/WMA).

DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS IN GENERAL

A Physician shall always maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.

A Physician shall, in all types of medical practice, be dedicated to providing competent medical service in full technical and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity.

A Physician shall deal honestly with patients and colleagues, and strive to expose those physicians deficient in character or competence, or who engage in fraud or deception.

The following practice are deemed to be unethical conduct;

- a. Self-advertising by physicians, unless permitted by the laws of the country;
- b. Paying or receiving any fee or any other consideration solely to procure the referral of a patient or for prescribing or referring a patient to any source.

A Physician shall respect the rights of patients, of colleagues, and of other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences.

A Physician shall act only in the patient's interest when providing medical care which might have the effect of weakening the physical and mental condition of the patient.

A Physician shall use great caution in divulging discoveries or new techniques or treatment through non-professional channels.

A Physician shall certify only that which he has personally verified.

DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO THE SICK

A Physician shall always bear in mind the obligation of preserving human life,

A Physician shall owe his patients complete loyalty and all the resources of his science. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond the physician's capacity he should summon another physician who has the necessary ability.

A Physician shall preserve absolute confidentiality on all he knows about his patient even after the patient has died.

A Physician shall give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he is assured that others are willing and able to give such care.

DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO EACH OTHER

A Physician shall behave towards his colleagues as he would have them behave towards him.

A Physician shall not entice patients from his colleagues.

A Physician shall observe the principles of the "Declaration of Geneva" approved by the World Medical Association.

The MAM Council may appoint any member of the Medical Association of Mata to act as Ethics Officer.

The Ethics Officer shall be responsible for:

- i. The establishment and revision of the MAM Code of Ethics which shall deal with the duties of physicians in general, towards the sick and towards each other;
- ii. Represent the MAM in all national and international events dealing with medical ethics;
- iii. Represent the MAM in all national and international events dealing with moral and religious issues when such issues effect the policies of the MAM and the conduct of its members;
- iv. Shall present quarterly reports of his activities to the General Secretary;
- v. All final decisions on *Ethics* shall rest with the Council.