

Questions and Answers Batseta Umbrella Forums

What are the Batseta Umbrella Forums about?

The Batseta Umbrella Forums are special interest groups of Batseta representing the needs of the following categories of retirement funds

- Commercial umbrella funds
- Non-commercial / Industry umbrella funds
- Commercial funds (other than umbrella funds),
- In a further phase, employer and state sponsored funds.

Why is there a need for a new Forum?

There is currently no voice which represents the needs of the various umbrella funds and commercial funds (i.e. the Principal Officers, Trustees, Sponsors and membership). Industry bodies have to date not focused on the specific needs of these funds.

In the context of especially the COFI Act, National Treasury and the FSCA will increasingly require assistance with the development of conduct standards for the various categories of funds and will need to consult with focussed industry groups that have an intimate knowledge of these funds and their needs.

Objectives of the Batseta Umbrella Forums

The Batseta Umbrella Forums are special interest groups for commercial umbrella, non-commercial / industry umbrella and commercial funds, run by their POs, deputy POs, trustees and sponsors to advance the interests of this category of fund and their stakeholders and help ensure that the legislative framework within which they operate is appropriate and that they are effectively regulated by the authorities.

Who can be members of the respective Batseta Forums?

All retirement funds are invited to become members of the appropriate Batseta forum.

A **commercial umbrella fund** is (loosely defined as) a type A umbrella retirement fund that actively markets its retirement solutions to unrelated participating employers via in-house or independent benefit consultants.

An industry retirement fund is a typically a type B umbrella retirement fund established in terms of a bargaining council agreement, or for the members of a labour union, an affinity group or similar arrangement and where the bargaining council, union, affinity group or similar organisation may act as the sponsor (to be completed).

Other definitions – (to be completed)

What are the registration procedures for participation and membership?

Funds who wish to become members of a Forum will be required to apply and register for membership of Batseta. As such the PO, deputy PO, trustees and 3 individuals who represent the fund sponsor can become members. Once they have completed their individual registration applications they can enjoy all benefits at the special member fee.

Individuals can apply for membership or can simply register and pay the attendance fees for functions

How will the activities of the umbrella forum be funded?

The activities of the umbrella forum will be funded primarily by fund membership fees, individual membership fees and by attendance fees payable at seminars and workshops.

Fund membership

Batseta encourages all (commercial umbrella) funds to become corporate members. As such their PO, deputy PO, trustees and 3 individuals who represent the fund sponsor become members, once they have completed their individual registration applications and enjoy all benefits at the special member fee.

Fund membership fees are based on the sliding scale (which is dependent on the number of members) **with a minimum of R10 000 and a max of R40 000 pa pf. Insert the sliding scale**

This fee includes –

- Attendance by the PO, deputy PO, the trustees and 3 individuals who represent the fund sponsor of all Batseta seminars (not only the Umbrella Forum sessions) at the special member fee
- Enrolment and registration for the PO and trustees for the Batseta qualifications at the special member fee. (you will have to explain what it includes and what does not ...)

Individual membership

Any individual can apply for Batseta membership

POs, deputy POs and Trustees who obtained the PO or Trustee qualification and who's funds are not members are encouraged to register as members of Batseta in their personal capacity, attend appropriate sessions in order to maintain their CPD points and other ongoing membership requirements.

Function fees payable at the door

Individuals who are not members are welcome to attend seminars and conferences at the standard advertised fee.

This is just a draft and needs more work ...

Note : I Think it is important that we prepare a basic budget for Umbrella forum sessions so that the committees can have some control over when they do their planning. This budget will take into account the annual fund and individual membership fees and the entrance fees – only roughly

- This should include the venue and the food
- Flight costs etc. for 4 to 5 persons - a Batseta person, myself, one or two speakers
- Special requirements

How will the various forums be formed?

Batseta will first engage with the top funds in each category and develop consensus on the objectives and the most appropriate management structures and procedures. All funds in that category will then be invited to attend, consider, discuss and agree on the way forward for that forum

How will the forums achieve their strategic vision?

The discussion Forums in Gauteng and the Cape will engage on a regular basis to discuss operational concerns and will identify and prioritise issues.

The views of the discussion forums will be considered by the Batseta Board and once consensus has been reached they will added to the agenda (consultation forum) for discussion with the authorities.

Relationship with other industry organisations?

The Forums will seek to cooperate and not compete with other industry bodies. Forums will as a matter of principle extend an invitation to the FSCA, ASISA, the IRFA and other bodies to attend forum meetings and contribute.