

Statutes for the International Association of Art

As adopted at the 18th General Assembly in Pilsen 2015

Article I – THE ASSOCIATION

There is hereby constituted a Non-Governmental International Association of Art (hereinafter referred to as “the Association”) comprising of professional artists in the field of visual art. These shall be represented in the Association by National Committees, which shall be as democratic and representative of the artists in each country, nation or people

Article 2– AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the Association shall be:

- 2.1.1 to stimulate international cultural co-operation, free from any aesthetic, political or other bias, among the artists of all countries, nations or people
- 2.1.2 to improve the economic and social position of artists at the national and international levels and to defend their material and moral rights

2.2 The General Assembly and the Executive Committee shall determine the best means of achieving these objectives. It shall co-operate with UNESCO and other NGOs, and shall seek to co-ordinate its activities as far as possible with those of other existing organisations concerned with the arts and culture.

Article 3 – ORGANISATION

3.1 The bodies responsible for furthering the aims and objectives of the Association are:

- 3.1.1 The General Assembly of the IAA
- 3.1.2 The Executive Committee including the Regional Coordinators
- 3.1.3 The National Committees of the IAA.

3.2 The Association shall be governed by the General Assembly and will be administrated by the President of the Association in conjunction with the elected members of the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary.

Article 4 – MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

4.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to the National Committees of each country, nation or people.

4.2 The composition of National Committees may vary according to the circumstances found in each country, nation or people. They should be non-governmental, democratic in their structure and representative of the majority of artists in each country, nation or people.

4.3 Each National Committee shall be responsible for furthering the aims and objectives of the Association in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and these Statutes.

4.4. New members

4.4.1 When a National Committee, applying to become a member of the Association, is set up in a country or among a nation or people, not yet represented by the Association, the Regional Coordinator shall inquire whether or not the National Committee complies with Article 4.2 of these Statutes.

4.4.2 An application for membership must be made to the Regional Coordinator. Pending his/her decision it will be ratified at the next Executive Committee meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for a new member to be accepted.

- 4.4.3** Should the Executive Committee find itself unable to reach a decision relating to an application for membership, it may seek the guidance of the General Assembly at its next meeting. The General Assembly shall then vote by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote is required for the admission of a new member.

4.5 Disputes over membership

Should a dispute arise over the membership of a National Committee the matter should first be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee can find no solution to the dispute, they may put the matter to the next meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then vote by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote is required.

4.6 Cessation of membership

- 4.6.1** All National Committees may withdraw from the Association by giving notice to the Executive Secretary of the Association. Such withdrawals shall take effect when accepted by the Executive Committee.
- 4.6.2** A National Committee shall cease to be a member of the Association if the General Assembly decides by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote, that it cannot be considered representative of the country, nation or people in question.
- 4.6.3** A National Committee shall cease to be a member of the Association if it does not have contact with the Executive Secretary or the Executive Committee for a period of four years.
- 4.6.4.** A National Committee shall cease to be a member if the General Assembly considers that it does not conform with Article 4.3

4.7 Delegates to meetings

- 4.7.1** Each National Committee shall appoint an artist delegate to the General Assembly and shall by a written statement empower him or her to vote.
- 4.7.2** A National Committee unable to have its own delegates at a General Assembly may designate by written statement, a delegate from another country to vote on its behalf, but no delegation may use more than two votes.

Article 5 – THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 5.1** The General Assembly holds all the powers necessary for achieving the objectives of the Association.
- 5.2** The General Assembly shall consist of the representatives of the National Committees. Each National Committee shall be entitled to one vote.
- 5.3** The General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session, at least once every four years, upon convocation of the President of the Association.
- 5.4** The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session at the request of one-third of the National Committees or on a request by a quorum of the members of the Executive Committee.
- 5.5** Calling a meeting of the General Assembly or an extraordinary session is the duty of the President or the Vice-President acting in his/her stead.
- 5.6** All meetings of the General Assembly shall be governed by the Rules for meetings, which shall be distributed to all National Associations four months before meetings commence.

5.7 The General Assembly shall:

- 5.7.1 Confirm the validity of the calling of the General Assembly;
- 5.7.2 At its first meeting the General Assembly shall approve the *Rules for meetings* as the basis upon which the Assembly will proceed;
- 5.7.3 Adopt reports on the activities of the Association since the last General Assembly from the President and the Executive Secretary;
- 5.7.4 Adopt the report of the Treasurer of the Association;
- 5.7.5 Decide the number of members in the Executive in accordance with the *Rules for meetings* p 2.2.1. Listen to and discuss the presentations of the candidates for election to the Executive Committee;
- 5.7.6 Elect the members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the *Rules for meetings* and *Rules for Election*;
- 5.7.7 Elect the President of the Association from the nominations put forward from the first meeting of the new Executive Committee;
- 5.7.8 Adopt resolutions and make recommendations;
- 5.7.9 Elect Honorary Presidents and Honorary Counselors.

Article 6 – THE PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BUREAU**6.1 The President**

- 6.1.1 The President shall be elected by the General Assembly as described in Article 5.7.6 and 5.7.7.
- 6.1.2 The President of the Association may not be from the same electoral group as his/her predecessor.
- 6.1.3 The President shall be elected for four years (the period of time between one General Assembly and the next) and may not be re-elected.
- 6.1.4 The duties of the President include summoning meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly to which he/she is responsible.
- 6.1.5 The President represents the Association and has the full legal responsibility.
- 6.1.6 In the event of the death or resignation of the President, or in his/her absence, the **First** Vice-President will assume the functions of the President.

6.2 The Executive Committee

- 6.2.1 The Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly in accordance with the *Rules for Elections*.
- 6.2.2 As soon as possible after its election, the Executive Committee, summoned by the retiring President or the senior member of those present from the former Executive Committee, shall meet to nominate for the position of President of the Association.
- 6.2.3 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President of the Association and up to eleven members. (See *rules for election* 1.2.1.and 1.5.8)

6.2.4. After the election of the President, the Executive Committee shall be reconvened by the new President.

6.2.4.1 It shall elect among its members the Treasurer for its term of office;

6.2.4.2 It shall name as Vice-President as first choice the runner-up in the presidential election or as second choice the Executive Committee member with the highest number of votes in the general elections;

6.2.4.3 It shall appoint as Coordinator of each region, the elected Executive Committee member from each region who has received the highest number of votes.

6.2.5 The Executive Committee shall supervise the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly for the achievement of the objectives of the Association.

6.2.6 The Executive Committee is responsible for establishing a Secretariat.

6.3 Vacancies in the Executive Committee

6.3.1 In case of vacancy of the President and/or the Vice-President the Executive Committee has to assure the functioning of the Association, i.e. it shall charge one of the members of the Executive Committee to take the legal responsibility of the President and/or the Vice-President.

In case of vacancy of the Treasurer the procedure is the same.

6.3.2 If a member of the Executive Committee loses the support of his/her National Committee, or if his/her National Committee ceases to be a member of the Association, he/she has to resign and the vacancy will be filled with the candidate from the same category with the highest number of votes at the last election

6.3.3 When there is a vacancy in the Executive Committee and there is no other candidate, from the last election, from the same category, the place is left vacant till the next General Assembly.

6.4 Meetings of the Executive Committee

6.4.1 The Executive Committee shall meet once a year if possible and at least twice between two ordinary General Assemblies.

6.4.2 It shall meet in extraordinary session if a quorum of its members so request.

6.4.3 All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be summoned by the President or the First Vice-President acting in his/her stead or by a quorum of the members of the Executive Committee.

6.4.4 The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be governed by the *Rules for meetings*.

6.5 The Working Committee

6.5.1. The Executive Committee can appoint a working committee consisting of the President of the Association, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary.

6.5.2. This Working Committee shall meet to deal with the business of the Association in the intervals between Executive Committee meetings.

Article 7 – ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1 The Executive Secretary

- 7.1.1** The Executive Secretary shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the efficient administration of the Association.
- 7.1.2** The Executive Committee alone shall have the power to appoint an Executive Secretary and if necessary to dismiss him/her.
- 7.1.3** The Executive Committee shall define the duties of the Executive Secretary and the conditions of employment.
- 7.1.4** He/She should be fluent in the two working languages of the Association (French and English).
- 7.1.5** The Executive Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and the Working Committee without the right to vote, and shall be a secretary to both.

7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1** The funds of the Association may be derived from subscriptions of members of the Association and from gifts, bequests or subventions from any individual or corporate body, provided that they are not subject to conditions incompatible with the objectives of the Association.
- 7.2.2** Every National Committee shall pay an annual subscription of an amount, which shall be determined by the Executive Committee, who will take into account the circumstances of each National Committee.
- 7.2.3** The Executive Committee shall decide the date on which subscriptions shall be due.
- 7.2.4** If, at the end of a two year period, a National Committee has not paid its subscription in full, the Executive Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to deprive that National Committee of the right to vote or withdraw its membership.
- 7.2.5** The Executive Committee shall appoint a chartered accountant to audit the Association's accounts.

7.3 The Treasurer

- 7.3.1** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial administration of the Association.
- 7.3.2** The Treasurer shall initiate to raise funds for the Association in accordance with Article 7.2.1 and 7.2.2. above.
- 7.3.3** At its last meeting before the General Assembly, the Treasurer shall present to the Executive Committee a financial report, approved by a chartered accountant, for the expired term as well as a draft budget for the following year. He/She shall also present these to the General Assembly.
- 7.3.4** The Treasurer shall prepare a brief financial report annually and distribute it to all National Committees.

7.4 Headquarters of the Association

- 7.4.1.** The headquarters of the Association shall be determined by the General Assembly.
- 7.4.2** In an emergency, the headquarters may be changed by a decision of the Executive Committee.

Article 8 – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

- 8.1** The General Assembly alone has the power to amend the Statutes.

8.2 Proposed amendments to the Statutes, together with the reason(s) for the proposed change(s), must be sent to the Executive Secretary at least eight months before a General Assembly meeting and must be communicated to all members of the Association at least three months before being submitted to the meeting.

8.3 They may be adopted only by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

Article 9– THE CULTURAL REGIONS

9.1 The Association recognises five cultural regions: Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Arab States

9.2 Each region shall establish a Regional Committee headed by a President of the region. The number of members of the Regional Committees shall be determined by a Regional General Assembly, consisting of the National Committees which are members of the region.

9.3 Each Regional Committee shall draft statutes appropriate to the region.

9.4 Each Regional Committee should submit the statutes to a Regional General Assembly for adoption. A two-thirds majority is necessary.

9.5 The Regional Statutes shall be in accordance with the IAA-Statutes. The regional meetings shall be in accordance with the *Rules of Meetings* in these Statutes.

9.6 The Regional General Assemblies shall be held in accordance with these IAA Statutes.

Article 10 – DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

10.1 The Association may be dissolved only if a proposal to do so has been expressly included in the agenda six months before the date fixed for the General Assembly. The decision to support the proposal must be supported by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

10.2 The General Assembly shall lay down the procedure of liquidation and shall take all the decisions concerning the disposal of the assets of the Association.

Article 11 INTERPRETATIONS OF THE STATUTES

In case of difficulty to understand the texts of the Statutes and Annexes A and B, one could refer to the documents of the previous General Assemblies of the IAA. The French version should be seen as normative.

ANNEX A

RULES FOR ELECTIONS

1 ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1.1. Preamble: The role and responsibilities of the Executive Committee

The basic role of the Executive Committee is to determine the manner in which the programme – the main outlines of which have been established by the General Assembly – may be carried out, and to supervise the execution of the recommendations and resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee examines financial reports and draft budgets submitted by the Treasurer. It is responsible for employing an Executive Secretary and for overseeing the administration of the Association by the Secretariat.

Regional Coordinators for cultural regions are responsible for encouraging the work of National Committees in their cultural regions and for furthering the objectives of the Association at the regional level. Regional Coordinators may request the assistance of other Executive Committee members from their regions.

To ensure the smooth running of the Association, it is essential that members of the Executive Committee should stay in regular contact with the Secretariat and respond promptly to correspondences from the Executive Secretary, the President and the Working Committee.

As the elected body which represents the members of the Association, the Executive Committee should reflect the diversity of the membership. For this reason, rules are laid down for the composition of the Executive Committee. Its aim is to ensure that cultural regions, different age groups and both sexes are represented.

1.2 Eligibility

- 1.2.1. The Executive Committee consists of the President of the Association, the Vice President, the treasurer, 5 regional coordinators and up to three additional members.
- 1.2.2. The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly.
- 1.2.3 Only persons with the status of professional visual artists can be candidates to the Executive Committee.
- 1.2.4 Candidates for elections must be present at the General Assembly.
- 1.2.5 The term of office for members of the Executive Committee is the period of time between their election and the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly (usually four years).
- 1.2.6 A member may stand for election for another term at the next General Assembly.
- 1.2.7 If a person has served two terms, there must be a break of at least one term before that person may stand for election again.
- 1.2.8 No country, nation or people may have more than one member on the Executive Committee.

1.3 Nominations

- 1.3.1 The nominations of candidates for the election may be made by National Committees prior to the start of the General Assembly or by heads of delegations at the General Assembly.
- 1.3.2 A full list of the candidates, indicating cultural regions and other relevant information, must be provided for the head of each delegation before the election.

1.4 Tellers

- 1.4.1 Three tellers, from countries not putting forward candidates for the election, should be appointed by the chairperson of the session during which the election takes place.
- 1.4.2 The tellers are responsible for counting the votes and distributing places on the Executive Committee as outlined below. Members of the Secretariat or the host National Committee may assist the tellers if they request help.

1.5 Electoral procedures

- 1.5.1 Elections shall be by secret ballot.
- 1.5.2 Ballot papers shall be distributed to the head of each delegation present and entitled to vote.
- 1.5.3 Each delegation shall vote for up to eleven candidates of their choice, taking into account that there should be at least one candidate from each cultural region, a representation of both sexes and at least one candidate under the age of 35 if so exist.
- 1.5.4 The tellers will draw up a list in decreasing order, of the votes obtained by each candidate.
- 1.5.5 From this list they will extract the candidates with the highest vote from each cultural region (At present the IAA recognizes five cultural regions).
- 1.5.6 If this group of five names does not contain members of both sexes, the tellers will add to it the candidate, of the sex not represented, with the highest number of votes.
- 1.5.7 If the new group does not include at least one person under the age of 35, the tellers will add to it the candidate under 35 years who obtained the highest number of votes.
- 1.5.8 To complete the numbers of the Executive Committee, the tellers will then fill the remaining places with the candidates who obtained the highest votes, ignoring any consideration of region, age or sex. (see Statutes 6.2.3 and *rules for election* 1.2.1.)
- 1.5.9 In the event of the death or of resignation of a member of the Executive Committee during his or hers term of office which leaves a category unrepresented, the candidate with the next highest vote from the same category will be co-opted onto the Committee.

2. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The President will be elected in accordance with the Statutes. (5.7.6 and 5.7.7)

ANNEX B

RULES FOR MEETINGS

1. Working languages

- 1.1 The working languages of the International General Assembly shall be English and French. (these *rules for meetings* are also valid for regional meetings and regionally a different language choice may be preferred)
- 1.2 National Committees proposing resolutions must provide copies of the text in one of the languages. Translation into the other language is the responsibility of the General Assembly organizers.
- 1.3 The host country has to provide simultaneous translation into English and French. The host country may wish to provide simultaneous translation into and from its own language.

2 Hospitality

- 2.1 An offer of hospitality for a General Assembly or other meeting may only be considered by the Executive Committee if it has been made in writing, signed by the President and the Treasurer of the National Committee whose country's hospitality is being offered. This offer has to be received by the Executive Secretary three months before the opening of the Executive Committee meeting at which it is to be considered. In the case of a country in which the national (State) authorities assume responsibility for such events, the offer must have been counter-signed by a responsible finance official.

2.2 All offers of hospitality are received on the understanding that they are open to all accredited and entitled delegations of the Association in accordance with the rules applicable to International organisations of the United Nations system or affiliated thereto.

2.3 The written, signed invitation contains the following sentence:

“This invitation is addressed to the International Association of Art as a whole and access to our territory for this meeting is guaranteed to all accredited delegations of member countries of IAA and observers entitled by IAA’s regulations to attend.”

N.B. This condition cannot be taken to confer on participants at IAA meetings either diplomatic immunity or exemption from the international rules and agreements governing the granting of visas by one nation to the individual nationals of another nation.

2.4 If, during the period between acceptance of a meeting by a vote of the Executive Committee and the opening of the meeting itself, the above condition is countermanded by the host country, the Executive Committee is empowered to transfer the meeting to another country where this condition can be fulfilled.

2.5 Any delegation which, of its own accord or as a result of impediments or refusal by its own country’s authorities, fails to attend any meeting, shall have no claim of any kind against the Association.

3 Entitlement to attend and vote

3.1 The right to vote is exercised only by National Committees of the Association whose subscriptions to the Association are fully paid up.

3.2 Each Delegation representing a National Committee is entitled to only one vote.

3.3 The title and prerogatives of “delegate” may only be used by a professional visual artist. Each speaker, on addressing the meeting for the first time, shall briefly state his or her connection with the National Committee on whose behalf he or she is speaking.

3.4 In case where a National Committee is unable to send an artist-delegate to a meeting, that Association may delegate its vote in writing to a member of “another profession”, stating his or her connection with the Association concerned; this delegation-to-vote shall be signed by the President of the National Committee and shall be handed to the Executive Secretary not later than the moment when the participant in question registers for the meeting. The General Assembly has to give its approval at its first session.

4 Delegations

The Executive Committee shall determine in advance of the General Assembly and in consultation with the host country how many observers each National Committee may send. It shall also establish a list of organizations to be invited as observers.

5 Quorum

A quorum for any General Assembly shall consist of no less than one half of the representatives of the member National Committees which are fully paid up in their annual subscriptions and are either present or represented under the terms of Article 4.7 of the Statutes.

6 Chairing sessions

6.1 The President of the Association shall take the chair until such time as the Assembly has appointed its chairpersons.

6.2 At its first meeting, the Assembly shall approve chairpersons for each session of the meeting from the names submitted by the heads of delegations to the Executive Committee.

- 6.3** The chairperson of a session controls and signs the minutes of the session of the General Assembly she or he is responsible for.

7 Agenda

- 7.1** The full agenda for the meeting, which will include all items specified in Article 5.7 of the Statutes, shall be supplied to all delegates before the meeting begins.
- 7.2** Items for inclusion on the agenda (resolutions, etc.) should be submitted in writing by National Committees to the Secretariat three months before the General Assembly.
- 7.3** Alterations to the order of the agenda may be proposed at the first session of the General Assembly and must have a majority vote to carry the change.
- 7.4** New items for the agenda may only be included if a majority so decides.

8 Resolutions

- 8.1** The written texts of resolutions which are to be included in the agenda have to be sent to the Executive Secretary three months before the date of the General Assembly. A resolution text can also be given by the heads of delegations at the beginning of the Assembly or be proposed during the General Assembly.
- 8.2** Resolutions must be seconded by two other National Committees before it can be debated.
- 8.3** The Chairperson of the session will call speakers to debate the resolution and may enforce a time limit if it is necessary.
- 8.4** Voting on resolutions, which concern countries or persons, directly or indirectly, shall be by secret ballot.
- 8.5** A resolution, unless otherwise stated, requires a simple majority to be passed.

10 Record of a meeting (General Assembly)

The General Assembly decides at its first session who will be responsible for recording the minutes. The record of a meeting giving the texts of reports and resolutions and the results of votes and elections should be made available to all National Committees within 3 months after the closing of the General Assembly.

11. Executive Committee

- 11.1** The Executive Committee shall meet once a year if possible and at least twice between ordinary Assemblies. The quorum required for proceeding with a meeting is half the Executive Committee members present. (see point 11.6)
- 11.2** It shall meet in extraordinary session if a quorum of its members so requests.
- 11.3** All meetings of the Executive Committees shall be summoned by the President of the Association or the Vice-President acting in his/her stead.
- 1.4** Any member of the Executive Committee unable to attend a meeting may request his/her National Committee to appoint a temporary substitute who will have the same rights as the member he/she replaces.
- 11.5** The substitute should, if possible, be from the same National Committee or another National Committee in the same cultural region.

- 11.6** An Executive Committee member may, in writing, delegate his/her vote to another Executive Committee member. No member of the Executive Committee or substitute may have more than two votes.
- 11.7** The President shall chair the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 11.8** Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be adopted by simple majority. In the case of a tie the President shall have a casting vote.
- 11.9** A written record of the decisions of the Executive Committee meeting will be made and sent to the Executive Committee members, and pending their approval, sent to all National Committees.

12 Postal votes

In urgent cases the Working Committee (Article 6.5 of the Statutes) may instigate an email vote of the Executive Committee members. The Executive Secretary has to investigate the proper email addresses of all Executive Committee members and get them confirmed by each member. The Executive Committee members shall be given seven days to answer. Subject to these precautions, an email vote carries the same weight as a vote taken at a meeting, on condition, however, that it is supported by a majority of the Executive Committee's elected members.

13 The structure of Congresses.

Each Congress of the Association shall be structured to focus on the objectives of the Association (see the statutes 2.1. Delegations are requested to prepare their contributions to the Congress according to the themes given in the invitation to the General Assembly and Congress.