

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE IAML CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

The attached documents present the changes in the IAML Constitution and Rules of Procedure proposed by the Constitution Reform Committee. These changes are “based on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of IAML and take into consideration all the comments that have been made on the report via IAML-L, at the meeting of Council and the Roundtable Discussion between the National Representatives and the IAML Board” (Council resolution, 1 August 2013). As directed, the Committee has concentrated primarily on those changes required to move the organization from a three-tier administrative structure to a two-tier structure, “with the decision-making authority divided between the Board and the General Assembly” (ibid.) We have also revised several provisions that were out-of-date or unclear, but we have left some important issues to be addressed at a later date, most notably those involving the definition and management of commissions, professional branches, and committees. In one case (as explained under 3. below) we responded to a suggestion from IAML President Barbara Mackenzie that seemed to call for immediate attention.

In the attached versions of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure the original text appears on the left-hand side of the page and the proposed changes on the right-hand side. Sections have been renumbered as necessary. The principal changes are summarized below (*C* = Constitution, *R* = Rules of Procedure, numbers refer to the revised versions):

1. **“Congress” and “conference.”** Originally the name “congress” was used only for the international meetings held every three years in conjunction with the constitutionally required triennial General Assembly. The name “conference” was used for meetings in the two intervening years, which originally were smaller gatherings consisting mainly of working sessions of specialized groups. Since every international meeting is now a full meeting and an annual General Assembly will be required by the revised Constitution, it is appropriate that all meetings be called “congresses” (*C*, II.2.j).
2. **General Assembly and Board.** The powers formerly assigned to the Council have been distributed between the General Assembly and the Board. The General Assembly will have final authority over financial matters, contractual obligations, appointment of officers and editors, election of honorary members, establishment or dissolution of commissions, professional branches, standing committees, subcommissions, and working groups, changes in the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, and the locations and dates of future congresses (*C*, V.2). Normally the General Assembly will hold two sessions during each congress (*R*, III.1).
3. **President-Elect.** Under the present Constitution, a President may come into office without the benefit of any previous experience on the Board. At the suggestion of President Barbara Mackenzie (who found herself in that position), the Committee is proposing that IAML follow the example of many other professional organizations in having a newly-elected President join the Board initially as President-Elect. In the current system, one serves for three years as President and then for three years as Past-President. In the proposed new system, one would serve one year as President-Elect, followed by three years as President and only two years as Past-President (*C*, V.5, 9). The normal pattern during the three-year period following an election would therefore be:

Year 1Pres. (3rd year of term)

Pres.-Elect

Year 2Past-Pres. (1st year of term)Pres. (1st year of term)**Year 3**Past-Pres. (2nd year of term)Pres. (2nd year of term)

In order to make the transition to the new system it would be necessary for a President to remain in that office for an additional year. Thus after the next election in 2016, Barbara Mackenzie would have to continue as President for a fourth year, serving concurrently with her successor as President-Elect. She would still leave the Board after six years as planned. Barbara has expressed her willingness to do this, but it would need to be authorized by a special vote of the Council and the General Assembly.

4. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents. Removal of the Council from the administrative structure has made it possible to simplify and shorten the election process. In the future, all nominations submitted by IAML members will appear on the final ballot, and the election will be carried out during the four months preceding the congress at which those elected to the Board are to take office (*C*, V.8; *R*, V.1-2).

5. Forums. Two parallel forums will be established to advise the Board (*C*, VI.4-6). The Forum of National Representatives, which took shape during the meetings in Montreal and Vienna, provides an essential link between the activities of IAML at the national level and the international leadership. It will be chaired by one of the Vice-Presidents. The Forum of Commissions and Professional Branches will consist of the chairs of those groups (*C*, VII.7-8). This Forum will advise the Board on matters relating to these Commissions and Branches, and will assume responsibility for overall planning of the congress programmes, taking on the role of the present Programme Committee, which is virtually identical in membership. The Vice-President chairing this Forum will have the additional title of Programme Officer and (like the chair of the present Programme Committee) will coordinate the congress programme with the Secretary General, who will be an ex-officio member of the Forum.

6. Constitutional revisions. The present Constitution requires that proposed constitutional changes be distributed to the IAML membership at least three months in advance of the General Assembly during which they are to be voted on. It does not, however, allow for the proposed text to be altered after it has been distributed. To avoid this limitation, the revised Constitution mandates that distribution of the version to be voted on by the General Assembly should be preceded by a four-week period for public comment (*C*, IX). Changes in the Constitution will continue to require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly. Changes in the Rules of Procedure will follow the same process except that only a simple majority is required for adoption (*C*, XI).

7. Working groups. The revised Rules of Procedure establish a process for the creation of a working group, allowing for careful review and wide consultation before a proposal is presented to the General Assembly for approval (*R*, VII.5). Progress on the project undertaken by a working group will be assessed by the chair of the parent body and the Board on an annual basis (*R*, VI.5).

It is the hope of the Constitution Reform Committee that the proposed changes in the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure can be approved in Antwerp by both the Council and the General Assembly, enabling IAML to begin implementing the new administrative order envisioned in Vienna.

Constitution Reform Committee

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