



STATUTES

Article 1 (Status of the Institute)

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (hereinafter the Institute) is hereby constituted under Italian law as “a non-profit humanitarian association having social values as its objectives”.

The purposes of the Institute are defined in Article 3.

The Institute pursues its objectives and carries out its activities in full independence from any government or organisation.

Article 2 (Headquarters)

The Institute has its Headquarters in SANREMO, Italy.

A liaison office of the Institute is established in Geneva, Switzerland. Offices may also be established in other locations, as decided by the Council.

Article 3 (Purposes)

The main purpose of the Institute is to promote International Humanitarian Law. In pursuit of this purpose, the Institute takes initiatives and carries out activities of a practical and multi-disciplinary character, in particular, by:

- a) organising courses of teaching, training and advanced studies in the fields of International Humanitarian Law; Human Rights; Refugee Law, and related issues;
- b) promoting dialogue with a view to fostering better respect and implementation of the law governing the fields specified in paragraph a;
- c) organising international conferences, meetings and seminars of scholars and practitioners;
- d) promoting debate and exchanges between researchers and experts;
- e) undertaking research activities in the fields specified in paragraph a;
- f) maintaining and developing close co-operation and contacts with governments, international organisations, academic bodies as well as all other public or private institutions dealing with humanitarian issues, especially the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- g) granting scholarships and awards for research;
- h) encouraging the publication of books and periodicals, as well as producing electronic materials;
- i) assembling a collection of relevant literature and documentation.

Moreover, the Institute takes and supports initiatives, which seek to influence public opinion in favour of greater dissemination of knowledge of and more effective application of International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles.

All activities of the Institute can be carried out in partnership with other like-minded institutions.

The Institute cannot undertake activities other than those stated in the present Article or those related to them.

Article 4 (Membership)

Any person who has particularly distinguished himself/herself through competence or activities in the field of International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and Refugee Law may be admitted by the Council as Member of the Institute.

Institutions significantly contributing to the activities of the Institute may also be admitted by the Council as Members of the Institute.

Qualified persons and academic institutions, as also nations and intergovernmental organisations, contributing to the activities of the Institute may be admitted by the Council as Associate Members.

Article 5 (Statutory Bodies)

The statutory bodies of the Institute are as follows:

- a) The General Assembly;
- b) The President;
- c) The Council;
- d) The Executive Board;
- e) The Secretary-General;
- f) The Treasurer.

Article 6 (The General Assembly)

The General Assembly establishes and guides the general policy of the Institute.

The General Assembly is composed of all members of the Institute. Each member has the right to one vote.

Associate members may participate in the proceedings of the General Assembly but may not vote.

The General Assembly meets in an ordinary session each year to approve the annual budget and final accounts. It may meet in an extraordinary session at the request of the Council or at least one quarter of the members of the Institute.

The General Assembly is legally constituted:

- at the first call by the presence of at least one-half of the members of the Institute;
- if this quorum is not attained, at the second call regardless of the number of participants.

The General Assembly takes its decisions both at its first and second meeting by the majority of the votes cast.

The General Assembly may amend the present Statutes provided a majority of the Institute's members are present or represented and two-thirds of the votes are cast. Abstentions are considered as votes cast.

The General Assembly elects twelve members of the Council.

The General Assembly examines and approves the annual budget and final accounts, as proposed by the Secretary-General following approval by the Council.

These accounts must be audited by external Auditors, who are appointed by the Council.

Members of the Executive Board shall not vote when the General Assembly approves the annual budget, final accounts or resolutions concerning their responsibilities.

Each member may designate another member to represent him or her at the General Assembly. No member is permitted to represent more than three other members.

Vote by correspondence is accepted. If a vote is not cast directly at the Assembly it should be expressed in writing, also by fax or with a communication by electronic means which provides for a durable record of the text.

The General Assembly adopts its own rules of procedures.

Article 7 (The President)

The President is elected by the Council every four years. He/she may be re-elected for a second consecutive term up to a maximum of eight consecutive years.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute. He/she has the primary responsibility to ensure that the Institute pursues its purpose and objectives in conformity with the Statutes and the general policy established by the General Assembly.

His/her task is to offer guidance, to attract wide international interest in and to raise external support for the Institute.

The President is the legal representative of the Institute. He/she has the authority and obligation to follow closely all operations of the Institute. He/she convenes and presides over the sessions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Board. The President is assisted by the Vice-Presidents and he/she may appoint any of them to represent him/her.

The Council shall determine the remuneration and the financial conditions of the President. The President shall not participate in any decision concerning his/her remuneration and financial conditions.

In case of the temporary incapacity of the President to fulfil his/her mandate, the Executive Board shall nominate one of the Vice-Presidents as interim President.

Article 8 (The Council)

The Council is composed of twelve members elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years, each of whom may be re-elected for a total period of twelve consecutive years. In addition, the Council may co-opt up to six members based on their ability and readiness to serve the Institute. The Council will also include as voting members Institutions whose annual financial contribution represents at least 10% of the Institute's budget. The Council has the power to decide to waive the 10% rule in appropriate circumstances.

The Council may have permanent Observers, without voting rights, from other Institutions as determined by the Council.

The Council meets at least twice a year for an ordinary session. Extraordinary sessions can be convened on the initiative of the President or at the request of at least five members of the Council.

A Council member who is absent for three consecutive meetings without any valid justification shall automatically be excluded from the Council.

From among its members, the Council elects the President and the Vice–Presidents.

The Council appoints the Secretary–General and the Treasurer, as well as the external Auditors, upon consultation with the President.

The Council oversees the management of the Institute and the administration of its property, and establishes regulations for the Institute’s personnel.

The Council determines the programme of activities of the Institute according to the general policy established by the General Assembly.

The Council decides on the admission of new members to the Institute and determines membership fees. It takes note of the resignation of members and may exclude those members who do not conform to the present Statutes or do not pay their membership fees for two consecutive years.

The Council may establish Commissions or Boards of Advisors in the various fields of activity of the Institute.

The Council decides on the granting of awards and scholarships.

The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedures. It can also adopt regulations implementing these Statutes.

Article 9 (The Executive Board)

The Executive Board comprises the President, the Vice–Presidents, the Secretary–General and the Treasurer.

The Executive Board oversees the implementation of the programme of activities of the Institute, ensures the execution of the decisions made by the General Assembly and the Council, and oversees management expenditures. It is convened at the request of the President.

The Executive Board may establish committees in the various fields of activity of the Institute.

Article 10 (Vice–Presidents)

Vice–Presidents are elected by the Council every four years, upon consultation with the President.

They may be re–elected for a second consecutive term up to a maximum of eight consecutive years.

Upon proposal of the President, the Council shall determine the specific responsibility of each Vice–President.

Vice–Presidents shall assist the President in carrying out his/her task.

Article 11 (The Secretary–General)

The Secretary–General is appointed by the Council for a period of four years. He/she may be re–appointed for further terms of four years without limit.

The Secretary-General is the head of the administration and reports to the President. He/she ensures the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council, the Executive Board and the President.

He/she prepares the draft annual budget and the final accounts, for submission and approval by the Executive Board.

On behalf of the Council, he/she presents an annual report on the activities of the Institute to the General Assembly meeting in ordinary session.

The Secretary-General is the legal representative of the Institute at its Headquarters in Sanremo in the absence of the President.

The Executive Board shall determine the remuneration and the financial conditions of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General will not participate in any decision concerning his/her remuneration and financial conditions.

Article 12 (The Treasurer)

The Treasurer is appointed by the Council for a period of four years. He/she may be re-appointed for further terms of four years without limit.

The Treasurer is responsible for checking:

- the proper financial management of the Institute subject to the supervision of the external Auditors;
- the draft annual budget and the final annual accounts which, on approval of the Council, are submitted to the General Assembly.

The Executive Board shall determine the conditions of service of the Treasurer, including remuneration. The Treasurer will not participate in any decision concerning his/her conditions of service.

Article 13 (Interim appointments)

The premature discontinuation of the term of office of any office holder under these Statutes may give rise to his/her replacement through election or appointment by the Council for the remainder of the term of office of the office holder.

To ensure the normal running of the Institute, office holders remain in office until their actual replacement, whenever feasible.

Article 14 (Honorary positions)

The Council may nominate the following as honorary members of the Institute:

- a) members who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding commitment and exceptionally valuable participation in the work of the Institute;
- b) personalities who, through their activities, have made an important contribution to the development and respect of humanitarian principles or have acted with particular merit in support of the humanitarian cause.

The Council may elect any former President of the Institute as Honorary President for an indefinite period. There shall be only one Honorary President at any one time.

Article 15 (Administrative Management of Finances)

The financial resources of the Institute comprise membership fees, participant fees, contributions of governments, institutions or organisations, and of subsidies, bequests or donations.

The Institute's funds may only be spent on statutory activities or on activities directly connected to these statutes.

Income of any kind, as well as funds, reserves or capital cannot be transferred, even indirectly, to members or associate members of the Institute, except as salaries or other payments in conformity with these statutes.

Both the Institute's name and its status as a non-profit association should be indicated in every official communication.

Article 16 (Dissolution)

The Institute may be dissolved by a General Assembly specially convened for this purpose. The decision to dissolve the Institute requires a favourable vote of at least three-quarters of its members. This General Assembly will also decide on the disposal of the Institute's assets, by the same three-quarters majority.

In the event of dissolution of the Institute for any reason, the assets of the Institute will be transferred to other non-profit organisations, pursuing aims similar to those of the Institute, or, in any case, aims of public interest.

Article 17 (Applicable Law)

The Institute is governed, in matters not covered by the present Statutes, by the provisions of Italian law concerning non-profit associations.

Article 18 (Entry into force of amendments)

The amendments to these Statutes, adopted by the General Assembly on 8th September 2007, will enter into force immediately and will not have any retroactive application to previous terms of office.