

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA AND  
COMMUNICATION RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES ET  
RECHERCHES SUR L'INFORMATION ET LA COMMUNICATION  
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS EN  
COMUNICACION SOCIAL**

STATUTES (Last Revised June 2018)

Legend

**XXX:** Article for which an amendment is proposed to the GA of July 2022. The proposed amendment is in the comments of this document. Also see the additional Legal Committee document which group the proposed changes in thematic clusters.  
**XXX:** Minor language correction (not mentioned in the additional LC document)

**ARTICLE 1 – MISSION AND SEAT**

S1.1 The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) - l'Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information et la Communication (AIERI) or la Asociación Internacional de Estudios en Comunicación Social (AIECS), referred to in these Statutes as the Association, shall promote throughout the world media and communication research.

S1.2 The Association's legal seat is in Paris, France. It may be changed at any time to another address in France through a proposal of the Executive Board endorsed by a vote of the International Council.

**ARTICLE 2 – CHIEF AIMS**

**S2.1** The chief aims of the Association are:

2.1.1 to provide a forum where researchers and others involved in media and communication can meet and exchange information about their work;

2.1.2 to encourage the development of research and systematic study, especially in areas of media production, transmission and reception, in the contexts in which these activities take place and in those subjects and areas where such work is not well developed;

2.1.3 to stimulate interest in media and communication research;

2.1.4 to disseminate information about research and research needs – not only to researchers but also to those working in the various media and others responsible for communication policies;

2.1.5 to seek to improve media and communication research, policy and practice, especially from international and interdisciplinary perspectives, and to exchange information on practices and conditions that would improve the quality of media and communication practice and media and communication research;

Commented [NC1]: Improvement of the "Aims" article of the statutes (for changes, see italics)

S2. The chief aims of the Association are:

2.1. to provide a forum where researchers and others involved in media and communication can meet and exchange information about their work;

2.2. to encourage the development of research and systematic study, especially in areas of media production, transmission and reception, in the contexts in which these activities take place and in those subjects and areas where such work is not well developed;

2.3. to stimulate interest in media and communication research;

2.4. to disseminate information about research and research needs – not only to researchers but also to those working in the various media and others responsible for communication policies;

2.5. to seek to improve media and communication research, policy and practice, especially from international and interdisciplinary perspectives, *with attention to their ethical nature*, and to exchange information on practices and conditions that would improve the quality *and ethics* of media and communication practice and media and communication research;

2.6. *to guarantee, at every level of the Association, the diversity that characterizes the global academic community of media and communication scholars, to ensure their respectful and balanced presence, and to actively strengthen the academic communities which have been underrepresented;*

2.7. to contribute, by means of appropriate research, to the development and improvement of the education and training of journalists and other media professionals *and to promote and defend the freedom and independence of their work*

2.8. *to defend the professional interests of academic media and communication researchers, to help the improvement of their training, and to promote and defend the freedom and independence of academic work in Media and Communication research*

2.1.6 to contribute, by means of appropriate research, to the development and improvement of the education and training of journalists and other media professionals.

### ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

S3.1 The Association shall have three categories of membership:

- a) Full Membership, which shall be open to any person or institution active in the field of media and communication research, consistent with the aims and purposes of the Association. Full members may participate in all activities of the Association and may vote on all issues.
  - i. Full individual members shall be persons actively engaged in media and communication research, consistent with the aims and purposes of the Association;
  - ii. Full institutional members shall be national institutions such as universities or international organizations or associations, situated in any country, whatever their denomination or framework, whose purposes are consistent with those of the Association.
- b) Associate Membership, which shall be open to any national or international institution, organization or association whose aims, interests and activities are consistent with those of the Association. Associate members may participate in all activities of the Association but may not vote on any issue.
- c) Honorary Membership, which may be bestowed on individuals who have made meritorious contributions to media and communication research or the mission of the Association over an extended period of time, nominated in writing by at least twenty five (25) individual members. Honorary Members may participate in all activities of the Association but may not vote on any issue.

S3.2

- a) Applicants for membership shall apply in writing and pay one year's membership subscription in advance. The Treasurer shall report all applications for membership to the next meeting of the International Council, which will accept or reject each of them by a simple majority of members present;
- b) In the event of a refusal, the unsuccessful applicant may appeal to the General Assembly where a simple majority of members may decide either to confer membership or uphold the decision of the International Council;
- c) Refusal by the General Assembly shall be final;
- d) Members may resign their membership by writing to the Treasurer at any time but shall remain liable for the payment of the subscription due for the full calendar year in which they resign. Resignation shall be effective immediately for members in good financial standing.
- e) Membership expires without notice if members do not pay their due subscriptions for two consecutive years.

*Commented [NC2]: Article 3.2c italic added: Refusal by the General Assembly shall be final; in case of refusal, full refund of the dues paid will be done on request.*

## ARTICLE 4 – GOVERNING BODIES

S4.1 The Association has the following governing bodies:

- a) a General Assembly;
- b) an International Council;
- c) an Executive Board;
- d) a President.

## ARTICLE 5 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

S5.1 The power of the Association resides in the membership meeting in General Assembly. The General Assembly shall define the Association's principles of action and decide on the work programs and other proposals put forward by the International Council and the Executive Board. Its resolutions shall be made, in accordance with rules determined by the Executive Board, by simple majority and in accordance with its by-laws, unless specific dispositions of the present statutes or of the by-laws request otherwise; S5.2 It shall establish, commission and dissolve Sections as provided in Article 9;

S5.3 It shall receive and decide upon the budget, accounts and management report which will be presented regularly by the President with the comments of the International Council;

S5.4 It shall decide on its internal regulations, the level and scope of membership fees and on all matters not assigned to other bodies;

S5.5 It shall decide on the voting procedures for the election of the President, the Executive Board and the International Council and all such committees as it may establish, all elections using a first past the post electoral system;

S5.6 It may elect Honorary Members and Honorary Presidents. The latter shall also be additional but non-voting members of the International Council;

S5.7 The General Assembly will meet ordinarily every two years. An extraordinary meeting may, if necessary and with at least 60 days of notice, be either called by the President or requisitioned by at least one third of the members, and may be conducted either by post or electronically;

S5.8 The agenda of each General Assembly shall be published at 60 days in advance of its meeting.

S5.9 Each Full Member of the General Assembly shall vote according to the following:

- a) Full individual members shall have one vote;
- b) Full institutional members that are nationally constituted shall have three votes;
- c) Full institutional members that are internationally constituted shall have five votes.

Associate and Honorary Members may participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly but may not vote.

S5.10 Individual Members may be represented by proxies, provided that those proxies can present written and signed authorization. No single person, however, may represent more than one Individual or Institutional Member in addition to themselves.

Commented [NC3]: Article 4.1: delete number to 4

Commented [NC4]: Article 5.5 (about the GA), italic added, It shall decide on the voting procedures for the election of the President, the Executive Board and the International Council and all such committees as it may establish, all elections using a first past the post electoral system; it shall decide of the election result in case of a tie.

S5.11 Institutional Members may be represented by delegates of their own choice, including Individual Members attending and voting in their own right, provided that those delegates can present written and signed authorization.

S5.12 All meetings of the General Assembly shall be minuted for approval by the next meeting of the Assembly

## ARTICLE 6 – INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

S6.1 The International Council shall control the execution of the work program and budget approved by the General Assembly. It shall make its decisions by a simple majority of its members.

S6.2 It may establish and appoint special purpose committees including standing committees to conduct elections, co-ordinate the organization of conferences and publication activities, and continually review the domains and performance of the Association's Sections and Working Groups.

S6.3 It shall advise the General Assembly on the management report and accounts presented by the President and Treasurer.

S6.4 It shall decide on the admission of new members.

S6.5 It shall prepare the draft budget and present it to the General Assembly for approval.

S6.6 It shall prepare the agenda of the General Assembly and the work programs and other proposals to be presented to the General Assembly for approval.

S6.7 It shall define and publish the organizational details for managing and financing the Sections and Working Groups and prepare the list of nominations to be submitted to the General Assembly for election as Section Heads or Working Group Heads.

S6.8 It shall recommend to the General Assembly the ratification of any agreements between the Association and other bodies as provided in Article 9.5.

**S6.9 It shall comprise the Executive Board plus:**

- a) the Section Heads;
- b) an equal number of members elected by electronic voting, according to the technicalities decided by IAMCR by-laws voted by the General Assembly and able to provide, as far as possible, an equitable representation of age, gender and geographical distribution;
- c) the former Presidents of the Association as non-voting members.

**S6.10 A member of the International Council who is elected to the Executive Board must resign from her/his previous position on the Council. A Section Chair cannot be elected to the International Council under the provision of article S.6.9.b unless she/he resigns from the position of Section Chair when she/he is elected.**

S6.11 Each member of the International Council shall be elected for one four-year term and shall be eligible to stand for re-election immediately only once.

S6.12 The International Council shall normally be chaired by the President but shall elect one of its members, not a member of the Executive Board, to chair those meetings or sessions dealing with the requirements of Section 6.3.

**Commented [NC5]:** *New article S6.9 (IC composition):* It shall comprise

- a) the Executive Board;
- b) the Section Heads and 10 Working Groups Heads designated before each IC meeting by the Working Group Heads during the Section & Working Group Heads meeting preceding the IC meeting;
- c) *an equal number as in b) of members of IAMCR elected by electronic voting, according to the technicalities decided by IAMCR by-laws voted by the General Assembly and able to provide, as far as possible, an equitable representation of age, gender and geographical distribution;*
- d) the former Presidents of the Association as non-voting members.

**Commented [NC6]:** *Article 6.10 italics added:* A member of the International Council who is elected to the Executive Board must resign from her/his previous position on the Council. A Section *or a Working Group* chair cannot be elected to the International Council under the provision of article S.6.9.b *or c* unless she/he resigns from the position of Section *or Working Group* Chair when she/he is elected.

S6.13 The International Council will meet ordinarily every year. An extraordinary meeting may, if necessary and with at least 60 days of notice, be either called by the President or requisitioned by at least one third of the members, and may be conducted either by post or electronically.

S6.14 All meetings of the International Council shall be minuted for reporting to the next meeting of the General Assembly and approval by the next meeting of the International Council.

S6.15 Should one of its members die or resign, the International Council may appoint an interim member until the next General Assembly who will then appoint a new member for the remainder of the vacant mandate.

## ARTICLE 7 – EXECUTIVE BOARD

S7.1 The Executive Board shall comprise:

- a) the President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer.
- b) the Past President of the Association as non-voting member for the first two years following the election of the new President who succeeds her/him.

S7.2 It shall control the execution of the Association's business between meetings of the International Council and shall make its decisions by simple majority.

S7.3 In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

S7.4 It may conduct its business by post or electronically, shall minute its proceedings and report them to the next meeting of the International Council.

S7.5 The Vice Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer shall be elected by electronic voting, according to the technicalities decided by IAMCR by-laws voted by the General Assembly, for one four-year term and shall be eligible for re-election only once immediately. No member of the Executive Board may also hold office as a Section Head.

S7.6 In the event that any member of the Executive Board dies or resigns, the Board shall have the power to co-opt a substitute pending the next meeting of the General Assembly, which shall elect a new member for the remainder of the vacant mandate.

## ARTICLE 8 – THE PRESIDENT

S8.1 The President shall represent the Association, chair all meetings of the General Assembly, International Council and Executive Board (subject only to S6.12) and ensure the regularity of its activities.

S8.2 The President shall be elected by electronic voting, according to the technicalities decided by IAMCR by-laws voted by the General Assembly, shall take office immediately for one four year term and shall be eligible for re-election once only immediately.

S8.3 Should the President die, resign or, in the view of a two-thirds majority of the International Council, be unable to fulfil the duties of office, the Council shall have the power to appoint an Acting President who will hold office until the next General Assembly.

S. 8.4. During the first two years following the election of the new President, the previous President may sit ex officio as Past President in any governing Council or Committee of IAMCR as a non voting member.

**Commented [NC7]: Article 7.1 italic added:**  
S7.1 The Executive Board shall comprise:  
a) the President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer.  
b) the Past President of the Association as non-voting member for the first two years following the election of the new President who succeeds her/him.  
c) if an incumbent President is not running again or has not been reelected, the new President-Elect of the Association as non-voting member for two years after her/his election until she/he takes office as President

**Commented [NC8]: Article 7.5, last sentence, italic added:** No member of the Executive Board may also hold office as a Section or a Working Group Head.

**Commented [NC9]: Article 7.6, italic added:** In the event that any member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, or is unable to fulfil the duties of their office according to the unanimity of the other members of the Board, the Board shall have the power to co-opt a substitute pending the next meeting of the General Assembly, which shall elect a new member for the remainder of the vacant mandate. By exception, for IAMCR President, article 8.3 will apply.

**Commented [NC10]: Article 8.2 italic added:** The President shall be elected by electronic voting, according to the technicalities decided by IAMCR by-laws voted by the General Assembly. As President Elect, she/he shall then be part of the Executive Board as a non-voting member for two years immediately, then take office for one four year term and shall be eligible for re-election once only immediately.

**Commented [NC11]: Article 8.4 italic added:** During the first two years following the election of a new President, the previous President will be part as Past President of the Executive Board

## ARTICLE 9 – SECTIONS, WORKING GROUPS & CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

S9.1 The Association may establish, commission and dissolve Sections to pursue particular activities consistent with its aims. The membership of Sections shall be open to all paid-up members of the Association, including Institutional Members, who shall nominate their Section affiliations on their annual membership registration forms.

S9.2 The Association may also establish one or more Working Groups to pursue more specific topics of interest to members, consistent with the Association's aims and not dealt with by the existing Sections.

S9.3 The organization, management and financing of each Section and Working Group shall be controlled and subject to continual review by the International Council.

S9.4 Each Section and Working Group shall elect a Section Head, or Working Group Head, to be confirmed by the General Assembly, who shall serve one four-year term and shall be eligible for re-election only once immediately.

S9.5 The Association may enter into agreements with individuals or institutions, organizations and associations to accomplish particular tasks consistent with its aims. All such agreements shall be referred to the International Council which will decide whether or not to recommend their ratification to the General Assembly.

## NEW SECTION 10 PROPOSED

### ARTICLE 10 – UNESCO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

S10.1 The Association has the status of a non-governmental organization (NGO) in association with UNESCO and a number of other international organizations and has consultative and co-operative relations with these bodies. Affiliated international organizations may be invited to send observers to meetings of the Association or its governing bodies.

### ARTICLE 11 – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

S11.1 The financial resources of the Association shall be derived from: a) membership fees, established for each category of membership by the General Assembly; b) grants, awards and donations; c) the proceeds of Association activities; and d) payment for work undertaken by the Association.

S11.2 Funds shall be expended by the Treasurer under the delegation of the Executive Board applying from time to time.

### ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENT OF STATUTES

S12.1 These Statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Association meeting in General Assembly or voting either by post or electronically. Proposed amendments must be sent to the President who will disseminate them to the membership at least sixty days before the General Assembly scheduled to consider them.

S12.2 Any proposal to amend these Statutes shall include rules for the transition to the new Statutes, without which they shall have no effect.

**Commented [NC12]:** *Article 9.2 italic added:* The Association may also establish, commission and dissolve one or more Working Groups to pursue more specific topics or questions of interest to members, consistent with the Association's aims and not dealt with by the existing Sections. *The membership of Working Groups shall be open to all paid-up members of the Association, including Institutional Members, who shall nominate their Working Group affiliations on their annual membership registration forms. Every 4 years, Working Groups should report to the IC which will then decide to renew them for a further 4 years or to close them.*

**Commented [NC13]:** *Article 9.4, italic added:* Each Section and Working Group shall elect a Section Head, or Working Group Head, to be confirmed by the General Assembly, who shall serve one four-year term and shall be eligible for re-election only once immediately *whatever position she/he held within the Headship. A newly elected Head will be part as Head Elect as non-voting member of the Section or Working Group Head as soon as the election result is known, until the General Assembly confirmation.*

**Commented [NC14]:** *New section* ARTICLE 10 – IAMCR COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

*New article 10: The Association may establish, commission and dissolve an IAMCR Committee of experts outside its members to help activities consistent with its aims. Its members will be designated by the International Council on proposal of the Executive Board for a duration of 4 years. They may be renewed every four years if proposed again by the Executive Board and confirmed by the International Council.*

*If adopted, current articles 10 to 13 will become articles 11 to 14.*

**Commented [NC15]:** *Article 10.1: delete numbers to 10*

## ARTICLE 13 – DISSOLUTION

S13.1 The Association may dissolve itself by a two-thirds majority of the membership meeting in General Assembly or voting either by post or electronically. The proposal to dissolve must be sent to the President who will disseminate it to the membership at least sixty days before the General Assembly scheduled to consider it. The President will only send the dissolution proposition out if it includes every measure necessary for the settlement of the Association's debts and the disposal for its assets.

Commented [NC16]: Article 13.1: delete numbers to 13