

Ad hoc committee Level II

Motions to vote on

IAML congress 2015, New York

General considerations I

R1.1.-2. IAML should maintain the three basic types of permanent group it has now. The scope and function of each type of group should be more fully defined in the Constitution. It should make clear that the role of a commission or professional branch may extend beyond participation in the planning of congress sessions and encompass other activities, strategic as well as operational. The Committee will consider further whether it is desirable to change the present terms “commission” and “professional branch”, for example to “subject division” and “institutional division”.

General considerations II

R1.3. The Constitution should be expanded to allow for the establishment of permanent subgroups under the auspices of commissions, professional branches, or committees to address narrowly defined issues of ongoing importance as opposed to carrying out finite projects like a working group. Such subgroups would need to be integrally involved in the work of the parent body, reporting regularly during congress sessions and online. They would be created on recommendation of the parent body to the Board and require approval by the General Assembly. If attached to commissions or professional branches, they would provisionally be called “study groups”; any subordinate body of a committee would be a “subcommittee”.

General considerations III

R1.4. Commissions and professional branches should remain open to all as in the past, as would normally their subordinate bodies. However, each group would be required to create a system for interactive online communication between congresses (e.g. via e-mail, blog) in which anyone would be free to join. Subcommittees, like committees, would have fixed memberships.

General considerations IV

R1.5 Officers of commissions and professional branches should continue to be elected at the congress sessions in the year after the Board elections. To make the process more open and transparent, the Secretary General should solicit nominations for these positions several months before the elections and maintain a list of current nominees on the IAML website. Chairs of all subordinate bodies should be appointed by the Board in consultation with the chair of the parent group.

Changes in particular groups

R2.1./3. For the time being, IAML should retain its four existing commissions: Audio-Visual Materials, Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Service and Training. In formulating the terms of reference of each group, consideration should be given to re-naming or re-defining its purpose, in coordination with other permanent groups. Proposals for such changes should originate with the group in question, but would require Board and General Assembly approval. It would be possible at later congresses to add one or more new commissions or professional branches, but great care should be taken to ensure that their functions do not significantly overlap with those of any existing groups.

Documentation

R3.1-3. The Constitution and Rules of Procedure should be revised to include fuller generic descriptions of the types of group and require that each group have terms of reference approved by the General Assembly. Brief terms of reference for the individual groups would be embodied in a separate document, avoiding unnecessary repetition of the generic descriptions in the Constitution and Rules of Procedure and any information that is subject to frequent change. This document could be revised as needed by a simple vote of the General Assembly. Each group should create its own web page, listing current officers and committee members, giving instructions on how to participate in a particular commission or professional branch, and describing the group's current activities and initiatives. This web page would be kept up to date by the chair or other officer of the group.