

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE IAML CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

The proposed revisions were drafted by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Organizational Structure (Level 2) to implement the resolutions approved by General Assembly in New York. Some revisions are based directly on those resolutions; others, especially those dealing with issues of naming, involved decisions about matters left open by the resolutions. The revised texts also incorporate suggestions made by the Board and the Constitution Committee. The principal changes are summarized below.

1. The Professional Branches and Subject Commissions will be renamed Institutional Sections and Subject Sections. Many people found the term “commission” confusing, because it is so similar to “committee” and because the word “commission” is used somewhat differently in different languages. “Professional Branch” can also be misleading. In addition it was thought desirable to give these two types of group parallel names reflecting their similar roles in the organization. As a result of these changes the name of the Forum of Commissions and Professional Branches will become the Forum of Sections.
2. Study Groups may be created under the auspices of a section to address narrowly defined issues of ongoing importance. Like sections, they will be open to all IAML members.
3. Working Groups will be renamed Project Groups in order to clarify their function and to distinguish them from Study Groups.
4. Subcommittees may be established under Committees. Like Committees, they will have a fixed (closed) membership.
5. Brief Terms of Reference for all permanent groups will be created and maintained in a separate document, subject to approval of the General Assembly.
6. Officers of sections will continue to be elected during the congress in the year after the Board elections. The Secretary General will solicit nominations for these positions at least six months before the elections and maintain a list of current nominees on the IAML website. Chairs of Study Groups and Subcommittees will be appointed by the Board in consultation with the chair of the parent body.
7. Each group will be required to establish its own webpage on the IAML website and to keep the information up-to-date.
8. Each Section, Study Group, or Project Group must also establish a system for interactive online communication between congresses, in which anyone will be free to join.
9. To clarify the relationship between the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure some provisions have been moved from one document to the other, so that the Constitution now deals more consistently with general principles and the Rules of Procedure with operational details.