



General Assembly 2015 document / Assemblée Générale 2015

Item 17

Topic: **Statutes change proposals (Executive Committee)**
Rapporteur: **László Zentai, Secretary-General / Secrétaire général**
Date: 23 May 2015

The ICA Executive Committee (EC) suggests the following changes (new text is written in red):

Motions by the EC:

Statutes: In order that a motion be accepted, **an absolute majority of the voting member nations** of the Association is necessary, voting in person or by correspondence. Please, note that there is also a motion from Sweden on a change in Article 15.

Article 11: Voting

Existing version:

However, if at least two delegates make a request, the vote shall be taken by ballot.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

However, if at least two delegates, **or the Executive Committee**, make a request, the vote shall be taken by ballot.

Executive Committee's justification:

- This explicitly recognises the fact that most votes in the General Assembly are taken by ballot, due to the complex nature of voting. The Executive Committee would like to make the business of the General Assembly most efficient by proposing that ballots be used whenever necessary.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee proposed this change.

Article 14. Authority of the Executive Committee

Existing text:

As a rule, it meets once a year, but may meet whenever deemed necessary ...
The time and place of the International Cartographic Conference between General Assemblies may be determined by the Executive Committee.

Change to:

It meets **at least** once a year, **and** may meet whenever deemed necessary ...
The time and place of the International Cartographic Conference between General Assemblies **is** determined by the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee's justification:

- This reflects the realities that the Executive Committee have met (and have needed to meet) twice a year for the past decades, and that it alone makes the decision on the time and place of the ICC between General Assemblies.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee proposed this change.

Article 24: Commissions, Working Groups and Task Forces

Existing version:

A Commission is chaired by an individual, who is to be elected at each General Assembly. The General Assembly shall, at the same time, approve terms of reference for that Commission.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

A Commission is chaired by an individual, who is to be elected at each General Assembly. The General Assembly shall, at the same time, approve terms of reference for that Commission. **The maximum tenure for commission chairs is two consecutive terms.**

Executive Committee's justification:

- We suggest applying the same rule for not just EC members, but also for the commission chairpersons. Two consecutive periods should be enough to train successors (especially if the chairperson worked as a vice-chair previously).

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee agrees.

Article 27. Publications

Existing version:

For consideration of other publications, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Publications Committee consisting of a Chairperson and three members, only one of these four may be a member of the Executive Committee. The President and the Secretary General and Treasurer shall be additional members ex officio. The tenure of office of the Committee shall be the same as the Executive Committee, but the members may be re-appointed. The Publications Committee will examine proposals for publications (including commission reports), approve plans in terms of production, format and style, budgets and expenditure and distribution arrangements.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

For consideration of other publications, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Publications Committee consisting of a Chairperson and three members; only one of these four may be a member of the Executive Committee. The President, the Secretary General

and Treasurer and one of the editors of the International Journal of Cartography, one of the editors of ICA News, and one of the editors of the ICA website shall be additional ex officio members. The tenure of office of the Committee shall be the same as the Executive Committee, but the members may be re-appointed. The Publications Committee will examine proposals for publications (including commission reports), approve plans in terms of production, format and style, budgets and expenditure and distribution arrangements.

Executive Committee's justification:

- We have to manage the new situation and give some preference to the ICA outreach officers.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee agrees and has engaged in discussion with the Executive Committee to ensure that the full outreach activities of ICA are represented on the Publications Committee.

Article 32: Decisive Language

Existing version:

In cases of doubt on the interpretation of the statutes, the French text only shall be used in deciding the meaning given to the Articles.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

In cases of doubt on the interpretation of the statutes, the English text shall be used.

Executive Committee's justification:

- Nearly 100% of the ICA's correspondence and communication is in English. All official ICA documents are written in English first and then translated into French if necessary (practically only for the General Assemblies). This suggestion does not affect Article 31, the official languages are still French and English and simultaneous translation will be provided on the General Assembly.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee feels that French is much more precise than English for purposes of clarification.

Motions by the EC:

By-laws: These may be adopted, modified or rescinded by a simple majority of votes expressed by the principal delegates attending the General Assembly.

By-law 1 e)

Existing version:

The subscription for Affiliate members, as defined in By-law 5(a), is set as a minimum of one subscription unit for categories (1) and (2), a minimum for two subscription units for category (3) and (4) and a minimum of ten subscription units for category (5).

Executive Committee's recommendation:

The subscription for Affiliate members, as defined in By-law 5(a), is set as a minimum of one subscription unit for categories (1) and (2), a minimum for two subscription units for category (3) and (4) and a minimum of ten subscription units for category (5). **There is no subscription fee payable for category (6) Affiliate members.**

By-law 5 a)

Existing version:

For the purpose of affiliation as described in Article 3 the following categories shall apply:
(1)... (5)

Executive Committee's recommendation:

For the purpose of affiliation as described in Article 3 the following categories shall apply:
(1)... (5)
(6) UN bodies

Executive Committee's justification:

- A new category for special affiliate members is necessary. The only existing affiliate member that the EC recommends for inclusion in this category is the UN Cartographic Section.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee agrees with the principle of giving UN bodies official affiliate membership at no cost (through the new category 6).

By-law 1 (f)

Existing version:

New text.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

If a subscription is in arrears for three consecutive years the Executive Committee can recommend to the General Assembly to cancel the membership.

Executive Committee's justification:

- It is necessary to compare Statutes Article 4 (National representation):
"However, at the request of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly

may withdraw the right to vote from member nations which have not paid their contribution for the previous three years.” This allows for withdrawal of voting rights, but it is important to explicitly present also the potential to cancel membership.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The committee agrees with the wording as tabled.

By-law 6

Existing version:

ICA member nations and affiliates shall be entitled to the following services:

- Invitation to all ICA International Cartographic Conferences
- One free copy of all ICA publications including the ICA Newsletter
- Free copies of National Reports presented to ICA general assemblies. Free copies of the published collection of presented conference papers when made available, posted to members and affiliates unable to be present at the conference.
- Training courses, from time to time, as the need is demonstrated and finance is available.
- Preferential treatment in exhibitions of ICA.

Executive Committee’s recommendation:

ICA member nations and affiliates shall be entitled to the following services:

- Invitation to all ICA International Cartographic Conferences
- **Access to a list of all ICA publications**
- Free copies of National Reports presented to ICA General Assemblies
- **Access to the published collection of presented conference papers when made available**
- Training courses, from time to time, as the need is demonstrated and finance is available.
- Preferential treatment in exhibitions of ICA.
- **Access and contributing to ICA News.**
- **Access and contributing to the ICA website.**
- **Full access to the full range of instruments of ICA.**

Executive Committee’s justification:

- These changes reflect the changing nature of ICA Publications and the methods of disseminating information, keeping in touch with members, and allowing members to make contributions to the organisation.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

This is a joint proposal developed by the Statutes Committee and the Executive Committee.

By-law 8

Existing version:

Nominations for President, Secretary General and Treasurer, and Vice-President of the Executive Committee, and nominations of chairpersons of commissions, duly proposed by

their respective member nations, must be received by the Secretary General at least five months prior to the date determined for the General Assembly of Delegates. Such nominations must be accompanied by an indication in writing from the candidate that he/she is willing to serve, supported by a brief CV.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

Nominations for President, Secretary General and Treasurer, and Vice-President of the Executive Committee, and nominations of chairpersons of commissions, duly proposed by their respective member nations, must be received by the Secretary General at least five months prior to the date determined for the General Assembly of Delegates. Such nominations must be accompanied by an indication in writing from the candidate that he/she is willing to serve, supported by a brief CV.

Any person can be nominated for only one position of Executive Committee member (President, Secretary General and Treasurer, and Vice-President), commission chair or auditor.

Executive Committee's justification:

- To be an ICA officer is a difficult service. The Statutes do not give a clear guidance of the nominations. This extra sentence clarify the uncertainty. An individual may only be nominated for one of these ICA positions.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee agrees to a restriction to one position occupied per person, but would allow multiple nominations.

By-law 9

Existing version:

New text.

Executive Committee's recommendation:

In order to ensure that the commission is performing according to the approved terms of reference, the Executive Committee may recommend that the nominating country replace the commission chairperson prior to the next General Assembly.

Executive Committee's justification:

- This addition may assist the EC in its management of commissions.

The Statutes Committee remarks:

The Committee agrees that a new By-law be introduced to address the operation of commissions.