



The ITI Charter

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

Official partner of UNESCO
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Article 0 – Head Office

1. The head office is based in Shanghai, China. 1332 Xinzha Road, Jing'an, Shanghai, China 200040.
2. The UNESCO liaison office is based at UNESCO, 1 Rue Miollis, 75732 Paris, Cedex 15, France.
3. The addresses can be transferred upon the decision of the Executive Council; ratification by the General Assembly is necessary.
4. International offices and Regional Council offices can be created, with the approval of the Executive Council.

Article 0 – Head Office

Article I - Aims and Objectives

Article I – Aims and Objectives

1. Since the performing arts are a universal expression of mankind, which links large groups of the world's peoples, an autonomous professional international organization has been formed, which bears the name of International Theatre Institute ITI, with the addition: World Organization for the Performing Arts. The purpose of ITI is to promote the international exchange of knowledge and practice in the performing arts (theatre, drama, dance and music theatre in all their forms) in order to consolidate peace and friendship between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding, and increase creative cooperation between all people in the performing arts.
2. To achieve this purpose, ITI shall, inter alia:
 - a. Encourage sustainable activities and creation in the field of the live performing arts (theatre, drama, dance and music theatre, in all their forms);



Article II – Membership

A. Membership

ITI consists of full Members, Cooperating Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members and Patron Members. The National Centres, representing various disciplines of the performing arts in their country, are the sole full members of ITI.

B. Admission

1. ITI shall invite members of the performing arts community in any one country to establish a national Centre whose function shall be to promote the objectives of ITI in that country in cooperation and in coordination with ITI. The location should be part of the name of the Centre.
2. Membership of ITI may be obtained in various categories by accepting the Charter and Rules of Procedure of ITI.
 - a. Request for membership coming from Centres belonging to member States of the UN or UNESCO may be accepted in the name of the Institute by the Director General, subject to confirmation by the Executive Council at its meeting. Request for membership from other centres shall be presented to the Executive Council which shall have the power to accept or reject them.
 - b. Considering it indispensable for ITI to collaborate with all nations the Executive Council is authorized to accept as Associate Members such Centres which request membership but which face temporarily insuperable obstacles to full membership. However, the period of an associate membership may not exceed three years.

Article II – Membership
A. Membership
B. Admission



Article II – Membership

B. Admission

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- c. Cooperating Members of ITI may be admitted:
 - i) Such national institutions in the field of live performing arts which contribute to the realisation of the objectives of ITI
 - ii) Culturally diverse performing arts institutions which promote and enrich the objectives of world cultural diversity and thus contribute to the realisation of the objectives of ITI.

National institutions and culturally diverse performing arts institutions shall be admitted as Cooperating Members by resolution of the Executive Council with the endorsement of the National Centre in the same country as the institution.
- d. Considering that it is indispensable for ITI to collaborate with all international organizations in the field of live performing arts and to fulfil its role as the main partner of UNESCO for the performing arts, the Executive Council may accept as fully-fledged members the international organizations in the field of the live performing arts which request membership. The member international organizations commit themselves to respect and promote the objectives of ITI.
- e. On the account of their outstanding international services to the cause of the performing arts, or on account of their importance in the world history of the live performing arts, individuals can be elected as Honorary Members, World Theatre Ambassadors and World Dance Ambassadors by resolution of the Executive Council.
- f. Corporate or individual bodies that support the aims and programme of the Institute may be admitted as Patron Members by resolution of the Executive Council.



C. Resignation and Expulsion

3. A member ceases to be a member of ITI:
 - a. By resignation at any time, after the payment of dues owing, including the current year, by a letter addressed to the Institute.
 - b. By expulsion, after a three-quarters' majority vote of the General Assembly.
 - c. By neglecting to pay its annual dues for three years in succession, after a decision by the Executive Council. If the Centre does not agree with the decision, it has to write a letter to the Institute within 30 days after the decision and demand that the General Assembly vote on the Executive Council decision regarding the closure.
 - d. By violating this Charter.
 - e. By no longer representing the performing arts community in its country.
 - f. By no longer having any activities.
4. A National Centre which cannot pay its annual membership fee to the Institute may request to be removed to an associate membership for a transitional period which may not exceed three years. This relegation must be accepted by resolution of the Executive Council.

Article II – Membership

C. Resignation and Expulsion



Article II – Membership

D. Composition and Function of National Centres

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D. Composition and Function of National Centres

1. Each Centre shall include a board of directors in which the various branches of the live performing arts shall be represented (playwrights, composers, singers, choreographers, actors, dancers, producers, set designers, theatre managers, etc.) This board shall meet regularly, apart from holding general assemblies which shall include a relatively large number of individual or collective representatives of each of these branches.
2. Considering it desirable for the Centres to have both national and international activity, they shall be requested to assume a minimum of responsibilities including but not limited to those listed below:
 - a. All the professionals in the country concerned shall be informed of the existence of the centre and of its composition;
 - b. The Board of the centre (President, Vice president(s), Director General, etc.) should be composed of active elements of the professional life of the country and should, if possible, include a representative of each branch of the performing arts;
 - c. The Centre should provide visiting foreign professionals with the possibility of contacts and supply them with all non-financial help likely to facilitate their artistic sojourn;
 - d. The Centre should, according to national needs, form study committees charged with examining the most important problems, apart from commercial and union problems which are incumbent on other organizations;
 - e. The Centre should take the initiative of organizing cultural events such as festivals, conferences, competitions, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, publications, etc.



Article III – Constitution

1. The governing body of ITI is constituted the General Assembly. Between General Assemblies, the functioning of ITI shall be directed by the Executive Council, by the Executive Board and by the Director General.
2. In order to encourage the development of the performing arts in specific geographical area, ITI may create Regional Councils.
3. In order to study in depth certain matters in specialized areas of the performing arts, ITI may create permanent or temporary Committees, Forums, Networks, Groups and similar ITI bodies. The General Assembly can put an end to the existence of these bodies.
4. The Congress can put an end to the existence of these committees.

Article III – Constitution



Article IV – ITI World Congress & General Assembly

A. Composition I. Membership II. Participation

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Article IV – ITI World Congress & General Assembly

The ITI World Congress is the main event of ITI. It may consist of artistic, educational and humanistic events as well as the statutory part of ITI – General Assembly, reunions of Committees, Forums, Task Forces, Networks, Project Groups, Working Groups, Regional Councils, etc.

A. Composition

I. Membership

The General Assembly shall consist of: Representatives officially designated by the National Centres. Each Centre shall appoint not more than three delegates and three alternates, who may be accompanied by technical advisers and by such other experts as may be deemed necessary.

II. Participation

The General Assembly shall also be open to:

1. Representatives officially designated by the Associate Centres and the Cooperating Members, not more than one delegate and one alternate.
2. Office-bearers, project leaders and secretariats of Regional Offices and Committees (Forums, Networks, Groups and similar ITI bodies) as well as national delegates and other participants in committee meetings and workshops during the General Assembly shall be invited to attend as observers.
3. Individual Honorary Members and representatives of Patron Members shall be invited to attend as observers.
4. The President may invite representatives of UN, UNESCO, certain other international organizations or performing arts organizations and individual persons to attend the Congress as observers.



B. Functions

1. The General Assembly shall have supreme authority in all matters regarding ITI.
2. The General Assembly shall determine the plans and policies of ITI.
 - a. It shall discuss the reports and motions represented to it.
 - b. It shall approve the financial report of the period since the previous General Assembly and adopt the programme and the budget for the period until the next General Assembly.
 - c. It shall elect the members of the Executive Council.
 - d. It shall set the annual membership fees for full Members, Associate Members, Cooperating Members, Honorary and Patron Members.

C. Voting

1. Only full Members shall have voting rights. Each National Centre shall have one vote.
2. Voting by proxy will be possible under the following conditions:
 - a. The practical impossibility of being present at the General Assembly.
 - b. The authorisation mandating a proxy vote must be sent or handed both to the mandated Centre and to the Secretariat of the General Assembly.
 - c. A Centre may receive only one mandate.
3. Any National Centre of the ITI two years or more in arrears in payment of its contribution shall forfeit its right of vote in the General Assembly.

Article IV – ITI World
Congress & General
Assembly
B. Functions
C. Voting



Article IV – ITI World Congress & General Assembly

D. Sessions of the General Assembly

E. Chairmanship and Records

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4. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the Centres present and voting except in cases where it is laid down otherwise by the Charter and where the General Assembly has made special provision.

D. Sessions of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall meet every two years in ordinary session; it may be postponed, cancelled or meet in extraordinary session upon a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council or at the request of two-thirds of the total number of National Centres having paid their current contributions.
2. At each ordinary session the General Assembly shall decide on the meeting place of the following Congress, if possible.
3. The President shall convene the General Assembly and notify all members of the Institute as soon as possible and not less than ninety days in advance of the date and place of the session.
4. Any discussion not strictly concerned with the aims of the ITI is to be excluded from the agenda of the General Assembly, the Executive Council, and all other Committees.

However, in the case of a marked attack on human rights in the person of the members of the ITI or of its Centres, such a discussion may be authorized by a vote of two thirds of the members.

E. Chairmanship and Records

1. At each session, the General Assembly shall elect its President and officers.
2. The proceedings of the General Assembly shall be reported in summary records and said records, including the report by the Director General and the Treasurer, shall be sent to all members of ITI.



Article V - Executive Council

A. Composition

1. The Executive Council shall consist of a maximum of twenty members appointed by twenty centres elected by the General Assembly for the period between two congresses. In exceptional circumstances a centre may annul the appointment it has made while communicating the reasons for this to the Executive Council.
2. The Executive Council shall be as representative as possible of all regions and diversity of cultures and performing arts disciplines. It is recommended that centres elect designated personalities whom have the qualifications necessary for the fulfilment of the functions which are incumbent on the Executive Council.
3. The Members of the Executive Council deliberate and take decisions within the scope of their ability and of the interests of ITI; they act in the name of ITI worldwide and not as representative of their centre.
4. In order to assure all the possible guarantees of information, the Executive Council may invite representatives of Co-operating members, Regional Councils, Committees, Associated organizations or other technical advisers and Presidents of Honour to attend the meetings in a consultative capacity without a right to vote.

Article V - Executive Council

A. Composition



Article V - Executive Council

A. Composition

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5. The Executive Council may invite the Honorary President of the General Assembly and, if the latter is not a member of the inviting country, a delegate from that country to join the Executive Council for sessions held during the General Assembly, though without having the right to vote. A representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO), the Institute's founder, shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Executive Council in a consultative capacity.
6. At each election of the Executive Council, half the outgoing members shall not be re-eligible for the following term. However, if there are fewer than 20 National Centres candidates to the Executive Council, the non-eligible outgoing Centres will again be able to stand for election after a first round of voting has taken place. In the second round of voting, the number of vacant seats to be filled shall be determined by the difference between the number of Centres elected in the first round and the figure 20.
7. In the event of the Executive Council being left without one of its members because of his or her death or resignation, this member's Centre of origin shall appoint another personality as soon as possible.



B. Functions

1. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the execution of the programme adopted by the General Assembly.
2. The Executive Council shall elect the Executive Board for the period between two General Assemblies from amongst its members at its first session.
3. The President of ITI is empowered to represent the ITI officially upon all occasions. The President shall convene and preside over meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Council and the Executive Board. The President is the legal representative of ITI in all juridical and administrative matters.
4. The Executive Council elects its President and Vice-Presidents in its first session after the election of the Council during the General Assembly.
5. The President and Vice-Presidents are elected for one term by the Executive Council, renewable once. After the end of their last term, the President and Vice-Presidents may remain in the Executive Council if elected as members by the General Assembly (this does not preclude a Vice-president for two consecutive terms from becoming a President).
6. The newly elected Executive Council is responsible for ITI from the closing of the General Assembly until the closing of the following General Assembly. Between the announcement of the election results and the closing of the Congress, the new Executive Council shall be able only to designate the Executive Board. The work of the General Assembly shall be the responsibility of the out-going Executive Council.

Article V - Executive Council

B. Functions



Article V - Executive Council

C. Meetings

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C. Meetings

1. The Executive Council shall meet during the ITI World Congress, and, in ordinary session, at least three times between each Congress. It may meet in extraordinary session, after convocation by its Chairman or at the request of one third of its members.

An ordinary session shall take place during the ITI World Congress. At this session the Executive Council shall designate its office-bearers.

2. The first two ordinary sessions of the Executive Council shall take place during each of the two years following the ITI World Congress and a third meeting shall be held between 6 and 3 months before the next Congress.
3. The Chairman, in the name of the Executive Council, is empowered to address the General Assembly on the state of ITI.



Article VI - Executive Board

A. Composition

The Executive Board is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Director General is a member ex-officio.

B. Functions

1. The Executive Board is charged with the administrative and financial management of the Institute between Executive Council meetings.
2. Each member of the Executive Board shall be charged with responsibility for specific administrative duties, one of these being financial matters.

C. Meetings

The Executive Board meets between meetings of the Executive Council and whenever considered suitable and convened by the President. It gives an account of its deliberations to the following meeting of the Executive Council.

Article VI - Executive Board

A. Composition

B. Functions

C. Meetings



Article VII – Regional Councils

Article VIII – Committees

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Article VII – Regional Councils

1. The General Assembly may promote the creation of Regional Councils composed of the Centres and Cooperating Members belonging to a specific geographical area.
2. These regional Councils shall have for their object the study of the means to encourage the development of the performing arts and their execution, account being taken of problems peculiar to their territory.
3. The creation of the Regional Councils must be approved by the General Assembly, whose duty it will be to ensure that these regional organizations act as a support to the work of the ITI and do not jeopardize international unity.

Article VIII – Committees (Forums, Networks, Groups, etc.)

1. In order to study in depth certain matters in the specialised field of the theatre, ITI may set up Committees (Forums, Networks, Groups or similar ITI bodies) which have their respective projects of activities in line with the ITI Charter. The General Assembly can put an end to the existence of these committees.
2. The General Assembly or the Executive Council may appoint Committees (Forums, Networks, Groups or similar ITI bodies) for the purpose of examining important problems.



Article IX – Secretariat

A. Composition

1. The secretariat shall consist of a Director General and such staff as may be required.
2. The Director General shall be appointed by the Executive Council, ordinarily for a renewable period of 4 years, and his or her appointment shall be approved by the General Assembly. The conditions of his or her appointment shall be specified in a contract between the President of ITI and the Director General.

B. Functions

1. The Director General is responsible to the Executive Council and the Executive Board for carrying out the instructions they have given him or her as well as for any initiatives he or she may be called to take, between meetings of the Executive Council and the Executive Board.
2. The Director General shall be responsible for the appointment and dismissal of the personnel of the secretariat.
3. The responsibilities of the Director General are exclusively international in nature. In the discharge of his or her duties, he or she shall not seek or receive instructions from any centre, nor from any authority external to the Institute. Each centre of the Institute undertakes to respect the international character of the duties of the Director General and not to seek to influence him or her in the discharge of their duties.
4. The Director General, directed by the Executive Council, submits to the General Assembly the report on the Institute's activity since the preceding Congress. This report is approved by the Executive Council prior to the Congress and submitted to the latter's plenary session for ratification.

Article IX – Secretariat

A. Composition

B. Functions



Article X – Finance

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Article X – Finance

1. The General Assembly shall approve a budget for the period between two Congresses and apportion financial responsibility among the Centres.
2. ITI may create a travel fund in order to facilitate participation of representatives from distant countries in the ITI meetings and events.
3. The resources of the organization include:
 - a. Membership dues.
 - b. Funds from UNESCO, European Union, governmental and governmental organizations, with approval of the Executive Council.
 - c. Donations or sponsorship from private organizations and individuals, with the approval of the Executive Council.
 - d. ITI may raise loans, with the approval of the Executive Council.
 - e. The accounting will be kept up to date with an annual report, an audit and an annex, according to the rules of the country where the headquarters of ITI are located.



Article XI – Amendments

1. Proposals for amendments to this Charter shall become effective upon receiving the approval of General Assembly of ITI, by a two-thirds majority.
2. The text of proposed amendments shall be sent to the centres at least two months in advance of the next meeting of the General Assembly at which they are to be proposed. Any such proposals by individual centres shall be sent to the Director General at least three months in advance.

Article XII – Period of Function

1. ITI's duration is unlimited.
2. ITI will cease to function if, at any time, three fourths of the total number of Centres so express their desire in writing to the Director General. In this event, the Executive Council shall be authorized to declare ITI dissolved.

**Article XI –
Amendments**

**Article XII – Period of
Function**

History

The ITI Charter, prepared and drawn up by the Expert Committee which met at UNESCO from 28 July to 1 August 1947, was adopted during the Statutory Congress in Prague in June 1948. It was modified during the General Assemblies of the following ITI World Congresses:

- Vienna Congress (1961)
- New York Congress (1967)
- London Congress (1971)
- Moscow Congress (1973)
- Stockholm Congress (1977)
- Madrid Congress (1981)
- Havana Congress (1987)
- Istanbul Congress (1991)
- Munich Congress (1993)
- Caracas Congress (1995)
- Seoul Congress (1997)
- Marseille Congress (2000)
- Xiamen Congress (2011)
- Yerevan Congress (2014)
- Segovia Congress (2017)







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