The ITI Charter

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

Official Partner of UNESCO

Version 2024

Article 0 – Head Office

1. The head office is based at 1332 Xinzha Road, Jing'an, Shanghai, China 200040

2. The UNESCO liaison office is based at UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, 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.

5. ITI is registered as a non-profit organization in France. ITI follows French jurisdiction and in juridical cases, the French law applies. Place of jurisdiction is Paris.

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);

b) Aim at an enlargement of the existing collaboration between performing arts disciplines and organizations, both national and international;

c) Establish international offices and foster the establishment of National Centres of ITI in all countries;

d) Collect documents, disseminate all types of information and issue publications in the realm of the performing arts;

e) Cooperate actively with its members, in the development, coordination on organization of performing arts festivals, conferences, congresses, show cases, expert meetings, exhibitions, competitions and special events such as Theatre of Nations, World Theatre Day Celebrations, International Dance Day Celebrations, etc., on national, regional, interregional and international levels;

f) Defend the free development of the performing arts and contribute to the protection of the rights of performing arts professionals.

3. To achieve this within ITI the members shall be guided by the principles of mutual respect, of dignifying the cultural traditions of all countries and of diversity and similar issues, as formulated in the Rules and Guidelines for Ethics and Conflict Resolution.

4. ITI may invite international partner performing arts organizations to maintain relations of cooperation with ITI and to affiliate with ITI should they so desire.

5. In order to provide clarification, ITI may create Rules and Guidelines for Centres, Regional Councils, the

Executive Council, Committees (Forums, Networks), and Rules and Guidelines for Ethics and Conflict Resolution as well as for other issues. The Rules and Guidelines are only valid after the approval of the General Assembly.

Article II – Membership

A. Membership

ITI consists of full Members, Cooperating Members, and Honorary Members. The National Centres, representing various disciplines of the performing arts in their country, are 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 by accepting the Charter, the Rules and Guidelines and Election Procedure of ITI. Members shall pay a member fee, set by the General Assembly.

a) Request for full membership coming from Centres belonging to member States of the UN or UNESCO may be accepted in the name of ITI by the Director- General, subject to confirmation by the Executive Council. Request for membership from other countries or parts of a country shall be presented to the Executive Council which shall have the power to accept or reject them.

b) Cooperating Members of ITI may be admitted:

i) Such national institutions in the field of live performing arts which contribute to the realization 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 realization 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.

c) 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, Honorary Presidents, World Theatre Ambassadors and World Dance Ambassador by resolution of the Executive Council.

C. Resignation and Expulsion

1. A member ceases to be a member of ITI:

a) By resignation at any time, by a letter addressed to the General Secretariat of ITI.

b) By neglecting to pay its annual membership fee for three years in succession after a decision by the Executive Council.

c) By violating this Charter.

d) By no longer representing the performing arts community in its country.

e) By no longer having any activities.

f) By expulsion, after a two thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

g) If the Centre wishes to appeal the decision proposed by the Executive Council, it must write a letter to the General Secretariat of ITI within 30 days after the decision and demand that the General Assembly vote on the Executive Council´s decision regarding the closure.

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. 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. The Centre shall be officially registered as a national non-profit organization. In an exceptional case, an ITI Centres can choose another administrative formation. Such an exceptional case needs the approval of the Executive Council. This applies also, if at some point an existing Centre change to another administrative form.

3. The Centres shall follow the Rules and Guidelines for ITI Centres.

4. 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 take the initiative of organizing cultural events such as festivals, conferences, competitions, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, publications, etc.

Article III –Governing Structure

1. The governing body of ITI is the General Assembly. The General Assembly must meet every two years, generally during a World Congress. If an onsite gathering is not possible the General Assembly may convene a Session online.

2. Between General Assemblies, the functioning of ITI shall be directed by the Executive Council, by the Executive Board and by the Director General. Their tasks and responsibilities are further described in Rules and Guidelines of the Executive Council and the Director General's contract.

Article IV –General Assembly

A. Delegates & Observers

The General Assembly shall consist of: Representatives officially designated by the National Centres. Each Centre shall appoint not more than three delegates.

The General Assembly shall also be open to observers including:

1. Representatives officially designated by 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 Honorary Presidents.

4. Representatives of the UN, UNESCO, certain other international organizations or performing arts organizations and individual persons.

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.

3. It shall elect the President and other members of the Executive Council. The President and Executive Council members are elected for two years between General Assemblies, renewable once.

4. It shall discuss and decide on the reports and motions presented to it.

5. It shall approve the financial report of the period since the previous General Assembly, adopt the ITI Programmes and the budget for the period until the next General Assembly.

6. It shall set the annual membership fees.

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 sessions of the General Assembly

b) The authorization mandating a proxy vote must be sent or handed both to the mandated Centre and to the General Secretariat of ITI.

c) A Centre may receive only one proxy vote.

3. Any National Centre of ITI two years or more in arrears in payment of its contribution shall forfeit its right of vote in the General Assembly.

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 an 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 membership fees. The meeting can be held online, provided there is a fully elaborated system for the electronic voting.

2. Each ordinary session the General Assembly shall decide on the meeting place of the following Congress, if possible.

3. The date and place of the session shall be communicated in writing to all members, as soon as possible and not less than 120 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 sessions of the General Assembly, except as outlined in ITI Rules and Guidelines for Ethics and Conflict Resolution.

E. Chairmanship and Records

1.The General Assembly shall elect its chairperson 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 - World Congress

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, Networks, Project Groups, Working Groups, Regional Councils, etc. The ITI World Congress is held every two years, in different countries that have an active ITI Centre in accordance with the *ITI Charter* and *Rules & Guidelines for ITI Centres*.

Article VI - Executive Council

A. Composition

1. The Executive Council shall consist of a certain number of members, which is 25% of the total number of ITI Centres with voting rights at maximum and 12 at minimum(including ITI President). 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.

3. The Members of the Executive Council deliberate and make decisions within the scope of their ability and of

the interests of ITI; they act in the name of ITI worldwide and not as representatives of their Centre.

4. The Executive Council may invite representatives of Cooperating Members, Regional Councils, Committees, associated organizations or other qualified advisers and Presidents of Honour or a representative of UNESCO to attend the meetings without the right to vote.

5. 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 nominate another representative for the same mandate as an Associate Executive Council Member with no voting rights as soon as possible. That representative must be approved by the Executive Council.

B. Election

1. The members of the Executive Council are elected by the General Assembly with a majority of votes. In case the number of elected candidates with majority votes is less than the minimum seats of the Executive Council, a second round of election among those unelected candidates will be held. In the second round, those candidates with the most votes will be considered elected until the minimum seats are filled in.

2. The members of the Executive Council are elected for a period of two years between two General Assemblies, renewable once. The two-term period in the Executive Council also applies to the Centre that an Executive Council member represents. After the Centre has been participating in the Executive Council for two terms, and after one term of absence of the Centre in the Executive Council, the Centre may nominate a new candidate for the Executive Council election. However, the Centre must nominate a different candidate, not the individual who has already served two terms in the Executive Council.

C. 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. The election of the Executive Board shall be done within one month after the election of the President and the Executive Council during the General Assembly.

3. The President of ITI is empowered to represent the ITI officially upon all occasions. The President shall convene and preside over the meetings of the Executive Council and the Executive Board. The President is the legal representative of ITI in all juridical matters.

4. 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.

D. Meetings

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

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. A meeting of the Executive Council can be held online, provided there is a fully elaborated system for electronic voting.

4. The Executive Council acts on behalf of all the Centres and Members of ITI. It may not be engaged in the interest and benefit of individual Council Members and their Centres.

Article VII - Executive Board

A. Composition

The Executive Board is composed of a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Director-General and Deputy Director-General are members ex-officio without the right to vote.

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

1. 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.

2. A meeting of the Executive Board can be held online, provided there is a fully elaborated system for electronic voting.

3. The Executive Board acts on behalf of the entire membership and may not participate in such a way as to advance the interest of individual Board members or their Centres.

Article VIII – 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. The creation of the Regional Councils must be approved by the General Assembly, whose duty it will be to ensure that these regional organisations act as a support to the work of the ITI and respect international unity.

3. The goal of these Regional Councils shall encourage the development of the performing arts and their execution, with special consideration given to the conditions, challenges, and practices of their region.

4 The Regional Councils shall follow the Rules and Guidelines for ITI Regional Councils, approved by the General Assembly.

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

1. The Executive Council (or during an ITI World Congress, the General Assembly) may appoint Committees (Forums, Networks, Groups or similar ITI bodies) for the purpose of examining important problems or for activities and projects in line with the ITI Charter.

2. These bodies shall follow the Rules and Guidelines for ITI Committees, Forums and Networks, approved by the General Assembly.

Article X – General Secretariat

A. Composition

1. The General 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, for a period of 4 years, which can be renewed three times. The appointment shall be transparent and 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 take, in accordance with the given instructions and the purpose of ITI.

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 fulfilment of his or her duties, he or she shall not seek or receive instructions from any centre nor 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 fulfilment 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 XI – Finance

1. The General Assembly shall approve a budget for the period between two General Assemblies and decide the scale of the membership fees.

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 fees.

b) Funds from UNESCO, European Union, governmental and non-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) The accounting will be kept up to date with an annual report, an audit and an appendix according to the rules of the country where ITI is incorporated.

Article XII – 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 of valid votes.

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 XIII – 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.

3. In the event that ITI is dissolved, any remaining funds will be transmitted to a non-governmental organisation with similar goals as the ITI.

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:

The Vienna Congress (1961), the New York Congress (1967), the London Congress (1971), the Moscow Congress (1973), the Stockholm Congress (1977), the Madrid Congress (1981), the Havana Congress (1987), the Istanbul Congress (1991), the Munich Congress (1993), the Caracas Congress (1995), the Seoul Congress (1997), the Marseille Congress (2000), the Xiamen Congress (2011) the Yerevan Congress (2014), Segovia Congress (2017) and Antwerp/Den Bosch (2024).