Rules and Guidelines for the ITI Regional Councils

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

Official Partner of UNESCO

Version 2024

I. The Nature of a Regional Council

A Regional Council of ITI (which in the past was called a Regional Bureau, Regional Forum or Regional Office) is a coordination point of National Centres within the International Theatre Institute for a given region of the world.

Through its existence and work it assists and strengthens the ITI and helps to achieve the ITI goals in the region. A Regional Council of ITI abides by the core values of the International Theatre Institute – Inspiration, inclusiveness, collaboration and transparency.

The following rules* and guidelines* have been designed to facilitate the work of a Regional Council.

II. Rules for ITI Regional Councils

A. A Regional Council of ITI must be established by the existing Centres of the region (on a simple majority basis) and the decision submitted for approval to the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

B. The geographic area a Regional Council works in is defined by the Centres, with the final approval of the Executive Council.

C. A Regional Council serves as a coordination point for its region.

D. A Regional Council coordinates its own activities in the region and is responsible for its own administration.

E. It helps existing ITI Centres in their evolution and development.

F. It scouts for new ITI Centres in countries of its region that do not yet have an ITI Centre and puts parties interested in creating a Centre in touch with the General Secretariat. The latter then follows up on the creation of a Centre.

G. It works closely with the General Secretariat.

H. Before an ITI World Congress, a Regional Council must send a report of its activities to the General Secretariat for publication and information to the ITI network.

I. During an ITI World Congress the plans of each Regional Council must be submitted for the next biennium and need to be approved by the General Assembly.

J. Because the area of a continental ITI Regional Council (Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Arab Countries and Europe) may overlap with another kind of Regional Council such as the Mediterranean Regional Council, a Centre may be a full member of both Councils (Example: The members of the ITI Mediterranean Regional Councils are also members of the European, Arab or African Regional Council.)

K. If a Centre belongs to the five continental ITI Regions (Africa, the Americas, the Arab Countries, Asia Pacific and Europe) and the Centre is geographically part of two regions, the Centre needs to prioritize its membership (being a full member in the prioritized region and an observer in the second region.)

L. In case of uncertainty in which region a Centre belongs to, the UNESCO List of Countries and Regions, as well as the world list of Countries and Regions, are the guidelines.

III. Guidelines for Regional Councils

Structure, financing

1. The leadership may consist of President (may be called also Coordinator or Chairman), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. The leadership needs to be elected democratically by the members of the Regional Council. If the President of ITI worldwide, or a Vice-President of ITI worldwide is from the Region, it is up to the involved Centres to decide if she/he is also the leader of the Regional Council or if someone else from the Regional Council takes the function.

2. It is recommended that a Regional Council abide by the rotation principle. It should regularly change its base and leadership.

3. Financing for the hosting of a Regional Council should be the responsibility of the hosting Centre which may cover the travel expenses for the leader as well as administrative costs for coordination. The individual travel expenses for meetings of Council members should be covered by the Centres the members belong to.

4. If a Regional Council has own activities, they should be financed jointly by the member of the Regional Council.

5. According to the Charter of the ITI, a Regional Council may be dissolved if it no longer functions or has activities that are detrimental to the goals and the Charter of the ITI.

Activities

6. A Regional Council of ITI should:

- organise meetings of the ITI Centres in its region
- coordinate joint activities of its region

coordinate joint activities of its region and other regions of the ITI.

Communication

7. A swift communication from a Regional Council to the network or parts of the network is of utmost importance. For the purposes mailing lists as well as newsletters and other means of communication can be used.

The leaders of all Regional Councils are expected to be in good contact with each other and with the Executive Council.

ITI World Congress

8. The office bearers of all Regional Councils should have a joint meeting with the President, Vice-Presidents, Director-General and Deputy Director-General during an ITI World Congress.

Size of a Regional Council

9. A Regional Council may be small and consist of some countries in a region (for example, the Nordic Countries, etc.) or may be as large as a continent or part of a continent (Latin America and the Caribbean, etc.) or even larger (Mediterranean Countries).

Additional reference

ITI Charter

Footnotes

* Rule: a principle or regulation governing conduct, action, procedure, arrangement. Guideline: a detailed plan or explanation to guide you in setting standards or determining a course of action.

History: These rules are based on the Charter of the ITI. The draft was prepared by the Director-General and the Strategic Plan Working Group on Centres at the meeting held in September 2009 in Zagreb, Croatia and was modified during the 129th Executive Council session, held in Khartoum, Sudan, in October 2009. Approved by the Executive Council in November 2009. Approved by the General Assembly of the ITI World Congress 2011, in Xiamen, China. Approved 2024 General Assembly.

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