



INTERPOL

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OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

*General Regulations*

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## **REFERENCES**

The General Regulations of the ICPO-INTERPOL adopted by the General Assembly at its 25th session (Vienna - 1956).

Articles 46 and 50 modified at the 31st session (Madrid - 1962).

Articles 41 and 58 modified at the 33rd session (Caracas - 1964).

Article 58 modified at the 36th session (Kyoto - 1967).

Articles 52 and 56 modified at the 37th session (Teheran - 1968).

Article 40 modified at the 43rd session (Cannes - 1974).

Article 58 modified at the 44th session (Buenos Aires - 1975).

Article 41 modified at the 46th session (Stockholm - 1977).

Article 53 modified at the 52nd session (Cannes - 1983).

At the 54th session (Washington - 1985), the General Regulations were modified as follows: Article 51, rewritten; Article 53 became Article 52; a new Article 53 was added; Articles 52, 54, 55, 56 and 57 were rescinded and Articles 58 to 60 were renumbered 54 to 56.

The English version of Article 53 was modified at the 56th session (Nice - 1987); the expression "Staff Rules" was replaced by "Staff Regulations".

Article 52 modified at the 57th session (Bangkok - 1988). This article, as amended in 1988, was abrogated by the General Assembly at its 65th session (Antalya – 1996) and replaced by a new Article 52 which will enter into force on 1st July 1997.

Articles 35, 36 and 37 modified at the General Assembly's 66th session (New Delhi – 1997).

Article 54 amended by the General Assembly during its 68th session (Seoul - 1999).

Article 43 amended at the 82nd General Assembly session (Cartagena de Indias – 2013).

Article 44 amended at the 83rd General Assembly session (Monaco – 2014).

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**GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL  
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**Article 1**

These General Regulations and Appendices have been adopted in accordance with Article 44 of the Constitution of the Organization.

Should there be any differences between the two, the Constitution shall prevail.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
PLACE - DATE - CONVENING**

**Article 2**

The General Assembly shall meet every year in ordinary session.

**Article 3**

Any Member may, on behalf of its country, invite the Assembly to meet on the territory of that country.

If this is impossible, the meeting shall be held at the seat of the Organization.

**Article 4**

Any such invitation should be sent to the President before the beginning of the debates of the Assembly.

**Article 5**

If the Executive Committee considers that circumstances are unfavourable to the meeting of the Assembly in the place fixed at its previous session, it may decide on another place.

**Article 6**

The President shall fix the date when the Assembly is to meet after consulting the authorities of the inviting country and the Secretary General.

**Article 7**

The date and place having been decided upon, the notices convening Members shall be sent not less than four months in advance by:

- (a) The inviting country to the other countries, through diplomatic channels;
- (b) The Secretary General to the various Members of the Organization.

**Article 8**

The following may be invited to be present at meetings as observers:

- (a) Police bodies which are not members of the Organization;
- (b) International organizations.

The list of observers shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee and should be approved by the inviting country.

The observers mentioned in § (a) shall be jointly invited by the inviting country and the Secretary General, while those mentioned in § (b) only by the Secretary General, after agreement of the Executive Committee and of the inviting country.

**AGENDA**

**Article 9**

The provisional agenda of the meeting shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee and communicated to Members not less than 90 days before the opening of the session.

**Article 10**

The provisional agenda shall include:

- (a) The report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization;
- (b) The Secretary General's financial report and the draft budget;
- (c) The general programme of activities proposed by the Secretary General for the coming year;
- (d) Items whose inclusion has been ordered at the previous session of the Assembly;
- (e) Items proposed by Members;
- (f) Items inserted by the Executive Committee or the Secretary General.

**Article 11**

Any Member may, thirty days before the opening of the session, request that an item be added to the agenda.

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**Article 12**

Before the opening meeting of the Assembly, the Executive Committee shall form the provisional agenda and the supplement to the agenda into a final agenda in the order of the urgency and priority of the items. The items left over from the previous session shall be deemed to take priority over the items suggested for the coming session.

**Article 13**

In so far as is possible, Members shall receive, thirty days before the opening meeting of the session, the information necessary for the examination of reports and items on the agenda.

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS**

**Article 14**

Extraordinary sessions shall be held, in principle, at the seat of the Organization.

An extraordinary session shall be convened, after assent has been given by the President, by the Secretary General as soon as possible and not less than thirty days and no more than ninety days after the request has been made.

**Article 15**

In principle, the agenda of an extraordinary session may only include the object for its convening.

**DELEGATIONS AND VOTING**

**Article 16**

Members shall notify the Secretary General as early as possible of the composition of their delegations.

**Article 17**

The General Assembly shall make its decisions in plenary session by means of resolutions.

**Article 18**

Subject to Article 52 of the General Regulations, each country represented has one vote.

Voting shall be performed by the head of the delegation or some other delegate.

The representative of one Member may not vote for another Member.

**Article 19**

The decisions of the Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority, except where otherwise provided by the Constitution.

**Article 20**

The majority shall be decided by a count of those persons present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Those who abstain may justify their attitude.

When the Constitution requires a "majority of the Members" the calculation of this majority shall be based on the total number of the Members of the Organization, whether they are represented or not at the session of the Assembly.

**Article 21**

Voting shall be done by single ballot, except where a two-thirds majority is required.

In the latter case, if the required majority is not obtained the first time, a second vote shall be taken.

**Article 22**

Voting shall be done by show of hands, record vote or secret ballot.

At any time a delegate may request a record vote to be taken except in cases where a secret ballot is required by the Constitution.

**Article 23**

Persons composing the Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot.

If two candidates obtain the same number of votes, a second ballot shall be taken. If this is not decisive, lots shall be drawn to determine which shall be chosen.

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**Article 24**

Resolutions may be voted on paragraph by paragraph, on the request of any delegate. In such a case, the whole shall subsequently be put to the vote.

Only one complete resolution shall be voted on at one time.

**Article 25**

When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first.

If there are several amendments, the President shall put them to the vote separately, commencing with the ones furthest removed from the basis of the original proposal.

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

**Article 26**

Meetings of the Assembly and the committees shall not be public, unless otherwise decided by the Assembly.

**Article 27**

The Assembly may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

**Article 28**

When a motion is under discussion, any Member may raise a point of order and this point of order shall be immediately decided by the President.

Should this be contested, any delegate may appeal to the Assembly, which shall immediately decide by a vote.

**Article 29**

If, during the discussions, a speaker moves the suspension or adjournment of the meeting or the debates, the matter shall immediately be put to the vote.

**Article 30**

A delegate may at any time move the closure of the debates. Two speakers opposed to the closure may then speak, after which the Assembly shall decide whether to accede to the motion.

**Article 31**

The Assembly may not vote on a draft resolution unless copies of it in all the working languages have been distributed.

Amendments and counter-proposals may be discussed immediately unless a majority of Members request that written copies of them shall be distributed first.

When a draft resolution has financial consequences, the Executive Committee shall be requested to give its opinion and the discussions postponed.

**Article 32**

The Secretary General or his representative may intervene in the discussions at any moment.

**SECRETARIAT**

**Article 33**

Summary records of the debates of the Assembly in the working languages shall be distributed as soon as possible.

**Article 34**

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the secretariat work of the Assembly; for this purpose he shall engage the necessary personnel and direct and control them.

**COMMITTEES**

**Article 35**

- (1) At each session, the Assembly shall form such committees as it deems necessary. On the proposal of the President, it shall allocate work relative to the various items on the agenda to each committee.
- (2) When it decides to create a regional conference, the General Assembly shall delegate to the latter the power to fix the date, place and conditions of its meetings, taking into account the proposals of member countries. If the regional conference does not take the appropriate decisions, the General Assembly shall take them.

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**Article 36**

- (1) Each committee shall elect its own chairman. Each committee member shall have the right to vote. Meetings of the committees shall be subject to the same rules as the plenary sessions of the Assembly.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph 1 of the present Article shall also apply to regional conferences.

**Article 37**

- (1) The chairman of each committee or a reporter nominated by it shall render a verbal account of its work to the Assembly.
- (2) The chairmen of regional conferences may also transmit recommendations made by the conferences to the General Secretariat which shall be responsible for co-ordinating any proposed resolutions to be submitted to the General Assembly.

**Article 38**

Unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, any committee may be consulted between sessions.

The President, after consultation with the Secretary General, may summon a committee to meet.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Article 39**

At the end of the ordinary session the Assembly shall fill such vacancies on the Executive Committee as exist, by election of persons chosen amongst the delegates.

**Article 40**

At the beginning of each session the General Assembly shall elect at least three heads of delegations who will form the "Election Committee".

They shall scrutinize the nominations they receive to determine whether they are valid and submit the list of these nominations in alphabetical order to the Assembly.

They shall also act as tellers.

**Article 41**

If, for any reason whatsoever, the President can no longer perform his duties either during or between sessions, his place shall temporarily be taken by the senior Vice-President.

Should all the Vice-Presidents be absent, the duties of President shall provisionally devolve upon a Delegate of the Executive Committee designated by the other members of the Executive Committee.

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

**Article 42**

The Assembly shall elect a Secretary General by secret ballot for a term of office of five years.

The candidate for the post of Secretary General shall be proposed by the Executive Committee.

**Article 43**

The Secretary General should be or have been a police official.

**Article 44**

The five-year term of office of the Secretary General shall commence at the end of the incumbent's term of office and terminate at the end of the General Assembly session held in the year in which his term of office expires.

The Secretary General's term of office shall terminate on completion of the five-year period provided for in Article 28 of the Constitution, or in the event of the Secretary General's resignation, death or removal from office.

The Secretary General shall be eligible for other terms of office.

**Article 45**

Should the Secretary General be unable to carry out his duties, these shall be performed in the interim by the highest-ranking official in the General Secretariat, provided the Executive Committee has no objection.

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**THE ADVISERS**

**Article 46**

Advisers may be individually or collectively consulted on the initiative of the Assembly, the Executive Committee, the President or the Secretary General. They may make suggestions of a scientific nature to the General Secretariat or the Executive Committee.

**Article 47**

At the request of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee or the Secretary General, reports or papers on scientific matters may be submitted to the Assembly by Advisers.

**Article 48**

Advisers may be present at meetings of the General Assembly as observers and, on the invitation of the President, may take part in the discussions.

**Article 49**

Several Advisers may be nationals of the same country.

**Article 50**

The Advisers may meet when convened by the President of the Organization.

**BUDGET - FINANCE - PERSONNEL**

**Article 51**

The Financial Regulations shall lay down rules governing:

- the determination of statutory contributions and payment conditions,
- the preparation, approval, implementation and control of the budget,
- the organization of an accounting system and the keeping, control and approval of the accounts,
- the procurement of works, supplies and services and the control of contracts, and shall also contain all relevant general provisions concerning the Organization's financial management.

**Article 52**

- (1) If a Member has not fulfilled its financial obligations towards the Organization for the current financial year and the previous financial year:
  - (a) the Member's right to vote at General Assembly sessions and other meetings of the Organization shall be suspended but such voting restrictions shall not be applied to votes taken on amendments to the Organization's Constitution;
  - (b) the Member shall no longer have the right to be represented at any ICPO-INTERPOL meetings or events except the General Assembly and other statutory meetings;
  - (c) the Member shall not have the right to host ICPO-INTERPOL meetings or events;
  - (d) the Member shall no longer have the right to propose candidates for secondment or detachment to the General Secretariat;
  - (e) all benefits and services, provided by the General Secretariat except those mandated by the Constitution, shall be withdrawn from that Member.
- (2) Once a Member has failed to fulfil its financial obligations towards the Organization for the current financial year and the previous financial year, the Secretary General shall:
  - (a) note the fact that the conditions for applying sanctions have been fulfilled and notify the Member accordingly;
  - (b) apply the measures listed under (1) above, unless the Executive Committee decides that it would not be in the Organization's best interests to withdraw one or more of the benefits or services referred to under paragraph (1,e);
  - (c) inform the Executive Committee accordingly.
- (3) The Member concerned may appeal to the Executive Committee against the measures taken. Appeals must be received by the Executive Committee not later than 30 days before the opening of its next meeting. If the Executive Committee decides to maintain the measures imposed, appeals shall be transmitted to the General Assembly which shall discuss them and take decisions at the beginning of its session. A member country may not submit a new appeal against the decision taken by the General Assembly unless so authorized by the Executive Committee on the grounds that a new decisive



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fact has come to light. Appeals shall not have the effect of suspending the measures taken by the Secretary General in conformity with the second paragraph of the present article; those measures shall remain in force until they are revoked by the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.

- (4) If a Member has not fulfilled its financial obligations towards the Organization for the financial years prior to the year in which an election to the Executive Committee is held, delegates from that Member shall not be eligible for election as President, Vice-President, or Delegate on the Executive Committee. Such Members shall not be permitted to propose candidates for any form of elected office or representative function connected with the Organization.
- (5) The Secretary General shall note the revocation of the sanctions taken in application of paragraph (1) of the present Article as soon as it has been verified that the Member concerned has fulfilled its financial obligations to the Organization as defined in paragraphs (1) and (6) of the present Article. The Secretary General shall inform the Executive Committee of any such revocation.
- (6) (a) The term “financial obligations” shall mean Members’ statutory contributions and any other contractual obligations they may have vis-à-vis the Organization.
- (b) For the purposes of the present article only, unfulfilled financial obligations relating to the previous financial year shall not be taken into account if such obligations, as defined above, do not exceed five per cent (5%) of the sum due.

**Article 53**

The Staff Regulations shall specify the staff members of the Organization to which they apply, and lay down the rules and procedures governing their management. These rules shall specify the basic conditions of employment and the basic duties and rights of the staff members.

**LANGUAGES**

**Article 54**

- (1) The working languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

- (2) During General Assembly sessions, any delegate may speak in another language provided he makes arrangements for the interpretation of his speeches into one of the languages mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article. Any request submitted by a group of countries for simultaneous interpretation of a language other than those mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article must be sent, at least four months before the opening of the General Assembly session, to the Secretary General who will state whether such interpretation will be technically feasible.
- (3) Countries wishing to apply the special provisions in paragraph 2 of this Article may do so only if they have undertaken to provide adequate administrative facilities and to meet all expenses involved.

**MODIFICATION OF THE GENERAL  
REGULATIONS**

**Article 55**

These Regulations and their Appendices may be modified at the request of any Member so long as the suggested modification has been sent to the General Secretariat at least 120 days before the opening of the following session. The Secretary General shall circulate this proposal at least 90 days before the session of the General Assembly.

The Secretary General may propose a modification to the General Regulations or their Appendices by circulating his proposal to Members at least 90 days before the session of the General Assembly.

During the session, in case of urgent necessity, any modification of the Regulations or their Appendices may be placed before the Assembly provided a written proposal to this effect be submitted jointly by three Members.

**Article 56**

The General Assembly shall take a decision on the proposed modification of the Regulations or their Appendices after consultation with an “ad hoc” committee composed of three delegates elected by the Assembly and two persons appointed by the Executive Committee.

This committee shall also be consulted on any proposal for the modification of the Constitution.

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