

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

STATUTES

I. OBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

1. The purpose of the International Research Council is:

- (1) To co-ordinate international efforts in the different branches of science and its applications;
- (2) To initiate the formation of international Associations or Unions deemed to be useful to the progress of science;
- (3) To direct international scientific activity in subjects which do not fall within the purview of any existing international Associations;
- (4) To enter, through the proper channels, into relation with the Governments of the countries adhering to the International Research Council in order to promote investigations falling within the competence of the Council.

II. DOMICILE

2. The legal domicile of the International Research Council shall be at Brussels, where the General Assemblies will be held and the archives kept.

Donations and legacies will be received and administered according to Belgian law.

III. CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

3. The countries in the following list may participate in the foundation of the International Research Council, and of any scientific Union connected with it, or join such Union at a subsequent period:

Belgium, Brazil, United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Greece, Italy, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Serbia.

After a Union* has been formed, nations not included in the above list, and diplomatic Protectorates of the enumerated countries may be admitted, either at their own request, or on the proposal of one of the countries already belonging to the Union†.

* The term "Union" in this and subsequent paragraphs is intended to include "Association."

† At a meeting of the General Assembly held on July 28, 1919, it was decided unanimously that the following countries be invited to join the International Research Council and the scientific organizations attached to it: China, Siam, Czecho-Slovakia, the Argentine Republic, Chili, Denmark, Spain, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Holland, Sweden and Switzerland.

At a meeting of the General Assembly held on July 26, 1922, it was decided to extend the invitation to join the International Research Council and the scientific organizations attached to it, to Egypt, Peru, and Morocco.

At a meeting of the General Assembly held on July 7, 1925, it was decided to extend the invitation to join the International Research Council and the scientific organizations attached to it, to Finland, Latvia and Tunis.

At an Extraordinary General Assembly held on June 29, 1926, it was decided to extend the invitation to join the International Research Council and the scientific organizations attached to it, to Austria, Bulgaria, Germany and Hungary.

Such requests or proposals shall be submitted to a vote of the Union concerned. A favourable majority of not less than three-quarters of the countries already forming part of the Union shall be required for admission.

4. A country may join the International Research Council, or any Union connected with it, either through its principal Academy, its National Research Council, some other national institution or association of institutions, or through its Government.

5. The Statutes of the Unions formed by the International Research Council require the approval of this Council.

IV. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNCIL

6. The work of the Council is directed by the General Assembly, consisting of delegates appointed by the adhering countries.

7. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall direct the affairs of the Council in the intervals between the General Assemblies.

This Committee consists of:

(1) Five members elected by the General Assembly.

(2) One delegate of each of the Unions connected with the International Research Council, who shall be nominated by the Bureau of the Union.

The members of the Committee elected by the General Assembly shall hold office until the end of the second assembly following that of their election; provided that two of the members (determined by lot) elected in 1922 shall vacate office at the end of the first General Assembly following that of their election.

Retiring members are re-eligible.

A member elected to fill a vacancy caused by death or resignation shall complete the term of office of the person whose place he takes.

8. The Executive Committee may fill up by co-optation any vacancy occurring in its body among the five members elected by the General Assembly. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the next General Assembly, which shall then proceed to an election.

Vacancies arising among the delegates of the Unions are filled by the Unions.

9. The Bureau of the Executive Committee shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a General Secretary, who shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the members of that Committee.

Retiring officers filling their functions are re-eligible.

10. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of the correspondence, the administration of funds, and the preparation and distribution of the publications authorized by the General Assembly.

V. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11. The Executive Committee may, in the interval between two meetings of the General Assembly, submit proposals to the organizations adhering to the Council for their approval. It shall do so when requested by one-third of the bodies constituting the Council.

12. The Executive Committee may nominate special Committees for the discussion of any question falling within the purview of the International Research

Council. The members of such Committees need not necessarily have been delegates at one of the General Assemblies. These special Committees may themselves co-opt other members by a majority of two-thirds.

13. The Executive Committee shall present an Annual Report to the organization in each country which has joined the Council. Such reports shall also be sent to each delegate who was present at the previous meeting of the General Assembly.

VI. MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14. An ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall, as a rule, take place once every three years. The date of the meeting, unless determined by the General Assembly at its previous meeting, shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, and communicated to the organizations adhering to the International Research Council at least four months beforehand.

15. For special reasons the President may, with the consent of the Executive Committee, summon an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly. He is obliged to do so at the request of one-third of the votes of the adhering countries.

16. The delegates of the different countries taking part in the meetings of the General Assembly shall be appointed by the organizations adhering to the International Research Council.

17. The President of the Executive Committee may invite to a meeting of the General Assembly scientific men who are not delegates, provided that they are subjects of one of the adhering countries. Such invited guests may take part in the discussions, but shall have no power of voting. Members of any of the Special Committees mentioned in Article 12 shall have the right, under the same conditions, to attend those meetings of the General Assembly which deal with the subjects referred to the Committee.

18. The agenda of business to be transacted at a meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee, and communicated to the adhering organizations at least four months before the first day of the meeting. No question which has not been placed on the agenda shall be discussed, unless a proposal to that effect be approved by not less than one-half of the total votes of the countries represented at the General Assembly.

VII. FINANCE AND VOTING POWER

19. The Executive Committee shall prepare an estimate of the budget for each of the years intervening between two General Assemblies. A Finance Committee, nominated for the purpose by the General Assembly, shall examine this estimate, together with the accounts for the preceding years. This Committee shall submit separate reports on the two questions to the General Assembly, which, having considered these reports, shall fix the unit of contribution for the succeeding period. The contributions due from countries and their corresponding voting powers are determined by the population of the countries according to the following scale:

Population	No. of votes	No. of units of contribution
Less than 5 millions	1	1
Between 5 and 10 millions	2	2
„ 10 and 15 „	3	3
„ 15 and 20 „	4	5
Over 20 millions	5	8

Each State is at liberty to include in its population, according to the indication of its Government, the inhabitants of its colonies or protectorates. Self-governing dominions have separate voting power according to the above scale. The same privilege is accorded to the Diplomatic Protectorates.

The contribution to be levied during the first period of the Convention shall not exceed 250 francs* per annum per unit.

In each country the organization adhering to the Council shall be responsible for the payment of the contribution.

20. The income of the Council derived from the contributions of the different countries shall be devoted to the expenses of the Bureau.

Funds derived from donations shall be used by the Council in accordance with the wishes expressed by the donors.

If any country withdraws from the Council, it resigns at the same time its rights to a share in the assets of the Council.

21. At the General Assembly votes upon scientific questions shall be decided by the majority of votes cast by the delegates present. In questions of an administrative character, and all questions not purely scientific, the vote shall be taken by countries, each country having the number of votes indicated in Article 19. In case of doubt as to the category to which a question belongs, the Chairman of the meeting shall decide. Votes taken in Committees shall be counted individually and not by countries. When there is an equal division of votes, the Chairman shall in all cases have a second or casting vote.

22. In questions of an administrative character, any country which is not represented by a delegate may forward its vote to the President by post, and such votes shall be counted if received before the votes are counted.

VIII. DURATION OF THE CONVENTION AND MODIFICATIONS

23. The present Convention shall come into force on the 1st of January, 1920, provided that at least three of the countries mentioned in Article 3 have signified their adhesion. It shall remain in force until the 31st of December, 1931, and shall then, with the assent of the adhering countries, be continued for a further period of 12 years.

24. No change shall be made in the terms of the Convention except with the approval of two-thirds of the votes of the adhering countries.

25. The French text of the Convention (of which the above is a translation) shall be considered to be the authoritative text.

The following resolution was approved by the second General Assembly of the International Research Council (26th July, 1922):

(7) "That only countries which have adhered to the International Research Council are entitled to be members of the Unions connected with it."

* In accordance with a resolution adopted at the General Assembly in June 1926 the unit of subscription for the remaining term of the Convention now becomes 50 gold francs, which—at par—may be taken to be equivalent to 9.66 dollars or £2 sterling.