



**IWGIA**

INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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## **IWGIA STATUTES**

**January 2022**

### **General**

1. The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) is a politically independent, non-profit international human rights organisation. IWGIA was founded on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1968.
2. IWGIA is a membership organisation. Place of registration is Denmark. The Secretariat is based in Copenhagen, Denmark. IWGIA's financial year follows the calendar year.

### **Objective**

- 3.1 The aim of IWGIA is to defend and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in concurrence with their own efforts and aspirations. This is done by  
  
documenting and disseminating information about indigenous peoples;  
advocating the rights of indigenous peoples in national and international fora;  
supporting human rights projects and other forms of activities with a view to strengthen indigenous peoples and their organizations at the local, national and international level.
- 3.2 IWGIA shall not permit any of its income or assets to be distributed or applied for benefit of a private person or non-charitable organization other than pursuant to the conduct of its charitable activities and must apply all income and assets in fulfilment of its statutory objective as mentioned above.

### **International Membership**

4. IWGIA has an international membership base and a broad international network.
5. Any person committed to IWGIA's objectives and willing to support its work can become a member.
6. Any organisation, institution, association or interest group supporting IWGIA's objectives and wishing to support the work of IWGIA can, after approval by IWGIA's board, become an institutional member.
7. Members shall not be held personally liable for debts or liabilities incurred by IWGIA.
8. The Board can establish other types of memberships.
9. Membership fees are determined by the Board.
10. Memberships are registered with the Secretariat.
11. The Board can decide to exclude members of the organisation if they are deemed to act in ways contrary to the objectives of the organisation, or do not pay their membership fee.



22. The agenda of the Board meetings will include but not be limited to the following items:
  - Adoption of the agenda
  - Adoption of minutes from previous Board meetings
  - Reports on current work of IWGIA
  - Future work programme
  - Report on the financial situation
  - Other relevant policy issues
  - Report from Board members
  - Date for the next board meeting
23. The Board approves the annual accounts and the annual budget.
24. The Board appoints the auditor general, who shall be a State-Authorized Public Accountant.
25. The Board appoints the Executive Director.
26. Decisions are usually made according to consensus, ensuring that all viewpoints are heard, debated and duly considered in the process. If consensus is not reached a vote will be taken. Voting is made by simple majority (except in case of dissolution of the organisation) and in case of equal votes the Chairperson's vote is decisive.
27. The Board forms a quorum when more than half of the Board is present.
28. It is the responsibility of the Board to request the secretariat to call for elections and for the annual Members' Meeting.

#### The **Secretariat**

29. IWGIA's daily work is coordinated by the Secretariat. The Secretariat works on a co-operative basis under the leadership of the Director.
30. All the positions in the Secretariat, with the exception of the Executive Director, who is appointed by the Board, are appointed by the Executive Director.
31. The Secretariat is responsible for communicating with the members.

#### **Election**

##### **Time Frame**

32. Board members are elected, appointed or recruited for a three-year period. Incumbent Board members can be re-elected or re-appointed for a maximum of two more consecutive terms.
33. All appointments and elections to the Board take place in November every year. All elections are made by ballot.
34. New elected/appointed Board members take up their posts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the following year.



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**Voting Rights - members**

47. Dissolution of the organisation can only be effected/ decided provided that a written warning of three months has been given to the Board and two thirds of the Board are in agreement. Should this be the case, the Board shall decide by simple majority how the organisation's funds should be used taking into consideration that funds should go to one or more organisations, resident in an EU or EEA country and working on a non-commercial basis for the protection of indigenous peoples' political, economic and social rights.

**Coming into force**

48. The present statutes came into force on 02 January 2022 and replace the statutes dated 21 January 2017, 08 December 2015, 01 November 2014, 1 March 2013, 1 June 2011, 7 February 2004, 27 May 2000, 28 May 1994, December 1989, 1 June 1985, 20 February 1981 and 10 March 1978, the latter having replaced the rules and directives that had been in force since IWGIA started its activity following its constitution during the International Congress of Americanists in August, 1968.

**Signed by the Board**

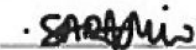


Ida Theilade (Jan 26, 2022 15:34 GMT+1)

Ida Theilade (Chair)



Rune Fjellheim (Vice Chair)



Sara Olsvig (Jan 26, 2022 14:53 GMT-3)

Sara Olsvig



Cathal Doyle (Feb 4, 2022 09:04 GMT)

Cathal Doyle



Elissavet Stamatopoulou-Robbins (Jan 26, 2022 09:12 EST)

Elsa Stamatopoulou



Maria Oehlenschläger (Feb 2, 2022 21:19 GMT+1)

Maria Bierbaum Oehlenschläger



René Kuppe (Feb 4, 2022 19:37 GMT+1)

René Kuppe