



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG  
FÜR DEN SCHUTZ  
DES GEISTIGEN EIGENTUMS

**Statutes of AIPPI**

**2015**

## **Statutes of AIPPI**

### **Article 1 - Name and Domicile of the Association**

1.1 The name of the Association, founded in 1897, is:

in English:

**International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property**

in French:

**Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle**

in German:

**Internationale Vereinigung für den Schutz des geistigen Eigentums**

The abbreviated name of the Association is:

**AIPPI**

1.2 The Association shall be governed by its Statutes and Regulations, which are subject to Swiss law.

The domicile of the Association shall be in Zurich.

1.3 The Association shall be a non-profit organization. It may make expenditure only in relation to the objects of the Association and may not compensate anyone disproportionately highly. Members leaving the Association shall have no claim to any part of the Association's assets.

1.4 The Association shall be politically neutral. It shall not discriminate, especially with regard to religion, race, national origin or gender.

1.5 The duration of the Association shall be unlimited.

### **Article 2 - Objects of the Association**

2.1 The Association shall pursue exclusively and directly non-profit and scientific objects.

2.2 The Association shall have the following objects:

- (a) to promote the understanding of the necessity at both the national and international level for intellectual property protection in the broadest sense as well as the repression of unfair competition, and to encourage further development of the protection of intellectual property;
- (b) to study and compare existing laws and proposed new laws, to propose improvements to them and to promote their harmonisation;
- (c) to work for the development, expansion and improvement of international conventions and agreements concerning the protection of intellectual property.
- (d) to promote the training and continuing education in the area of intellectual property protection and related protective rights.

2.3 The Association shall pursue its objects by, in particular:

- (a) publicly disseminating information, including preparing and distributing publications;
- (b) organizing meetings;
- (c) making representations to governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as to national, regional, and international organizations.

### **Article 3 - Members of the Association**

- 3.1 The Association shall be composed of:
- (a) All members of the National and Regional Groups;
  - (b) Independent Members;
  - (c) Members of Honour;
  - (d) Presidents of Honour.
- 3.2 Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in any field of activity of the Association without restriction based on citizenship, religion, race, national origin or gender and with no requirement of specific professional activity.
- 3.3
- The specific conditions for membership of each National or Regional Group shall be determined by the Group itself within the limitations of the Statutes and Regulations of the Association.
- In particular, the admission and exclusion of members of a National or Regional Group shall, subject to Articles 1.4 and 3.2, be within the competence of the respective Group.
- 3.4 The admission and exclusion of Independent Members shall be within the competence of the Bureau.
- 3.5 The election of Presidents of Honour and Members of Honour shall be within the competence of the Executive Committee and based on proposals made by the Bureau.
- 3.6 Any member who is appointed or elected to any position according to these Statutes shall fulfil that position independent of the interests of any National or Regional Group. This shall not apply to Delegates or Presidents of National or Regional Groups.

### **Article 4 - National and Regional Groups**

- 4.1 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same country may form a National Group of the Association, provided that membership of such Group shall be open to all members previously admitted from that country, such members having been informed accordingly and the majority of such members explicitly supporting the formation of such Group.
- 4.2 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same region consisting of two or more countries, where there is no National Group, may form a Regional Group of the Association.
- 4.4 The Statutes, Bylaws or other Regulations of the National and Regional Groups shall be established and maintained by the Groups themselves and shall be in harmony with the Statutes and Regulations of the Association as determined by the Bureau.

### **Article 5 – AIPPI annual meetings**

- 5.1 The Association shall organize and hold an annual meeting (referred to as an AIPPI annual meeting) open to all members to make public its activities and to serve as a forum for contacts between members and participants.
- 5.2 An AIPPI annual meeting shall normally be held upon proposal of the Bureau and the Venue Selection Committee, after acceptance by the National or Regional Group in the respective country or region (**Host Group**).
- 5.3 The date, programme and other arrangements of an AIPPI annual meeting shall be fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the Host Group.

### **Article 6 - General Assembly**

#### **Composition**

- 6.1 The General Assembly shall be composed of all members of the Association.
- 6.2 The General Assembly shall be chaired by the President of the Association, or in the absence of the President, by the First Vice-President.

### **Powers**

- 6.3 Only the General Assembly shall have the power to adopt and amend the Statutes of the Association and to decide on the dissolution of the Association.

### **Quorum and Decisions**

- 6.4 A quorum of the General Assembly shall exist when at least 200 members from at least one third of the National and Regional Groups are present.
- 6.5 Except as provided in Article 6.6, the decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of the members taking part in the vote.
- 6.6 For a decision on the dissolution of the Association, at least 200 members from at least two thirds of the National and Regional Groups must take part. Such a decision shall require a majority of two thirds of the members taking part in the vote.

### **Convocations**

- 6.7 The General Assembly shall meet when called by the Bureau or when requested by at least one fifth of the members of the Association from at least five National and Regional Groups, preferably on the occasion of an AIPPI annual meeting.

## **Article 7 - Executive Committee**

### **Composition**

- 7.1 The Executive Committee of the Association shall be composed of:
- the Delegates representing the members of the respective National and Regional Groups;
  - the Delegates representing the Independent Members;
  - the members of the Bureau;
  - the Assistants to the Reporter General;
  - the Assistants to the Secretary General;
  - the Presidents of Honour;
  - the Members of Honour;
  - the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective representatives;
  - the Chairperson of the Programme Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Finance Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Membership Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Communications Committee; and
  - the Chairperson of the Venue Selection Committee.
- 7.2 The Delegates from each National and Regional Group shall be appointed by their respective Group and their number shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall depend on the size of the Group.
- 7.3 The Bureau shall appoint Delegates to represent the Independent Members.
- 7.4 The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the President or, in the absence of the President, by the First Vice-President.

### **Powers**

- 7.5 The Executive Committee shall be the principal decision making body of the Association.
- 7.6 The Executive Committee shall direct the Association in the pursuit of its objects, and shall in particular:

- (a) determine and study questions falling within the objects of the Association;
- (b) adopt Resolutions and recommendations in the name of the Association;
- (c) decide upon the actions to be taken by the Association.

7.7 The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) elect from candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee: the members of the Bureau, the Chairperson and the other members of the Programme Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Finance Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Membership Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Venue Selection Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Communications Committee;
- (b) elect from candidates proposed by the Bureau: Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General;
- (c) appoint the Auditor or Auditors;
- (d) decide on recognition or withdrawal of recognition of National and Regional Groups;
- (e) approve the budget and fix annual subscriptions payable to the Association;
- (f) give directions to the Bureau, and review and approve its work;
- (g) determine the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; and
- (h) decide on the release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.

### **Regulations**

7.8 The Executive Committee may issue, change and revoke regulations and, if necessary, other directives relating to the administration and operation of the Association and its bodies.

### **Quorum and Decisions**

- 7.9 A quorum shall exist when at least one third of the members of the Executive Committee are present or take part in the vote.
- 7.10 Except as provided in Article 7.11, the decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of members of the Executive Committee taking part in the vote.
- 7.11 The withdrawal of recognition of a National or Regional Group shall be determined by a majority of two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee taking part in the vote.

### **Meetings and Vote by Correspondence or Electronically**

- 7.12 The Executive Committee shall meet on the occasion of each AIPPI annual meeting; exceptions to this rule shall be determined by the Executive Committee, or in urgent cases, by the Bureau.
- 7.13 In cases as determined by the Bureau, the Executive Committee may vote by correspondence or electronically.
- 7.14 A vote by correspondence or electronically shall be binding upon the Association only if the relevant majority specified in article 7.10 is reached.

## **Article 8 - Council of Presidents**

### **Composition**

- 8.1 The Council of Presidents shall be composed of:
  - the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective deputies;
  - the Chairperson of the Delegates for the Independent Members;
  - the Presidents of Honour;
  - the Members of Honour;

- the Chairperson of the Programme Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Membership Committee;
- 8.2 The Council of Presidents may have as observers:
- members of the Bureau;
  - Assistants to the Reporter General;
  - Assistants to the Secretary General;
  - the Chairperson of the Finance Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Communications Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee;
  - the Chairperson of the Venue Selection Committee.

### **Role**

- 8.3 The Council of Presidents shall constitute a forum of peers, acting to share experience among and provide advice to its members and to the Bureau.
- 8.4 The Council of Presidents shall advise the Bureau in particular in relation to:
- (a) relations between the Bureau and the National and Regional Groups;
  - (b) emerging issues of intellectual property law;
  - (c) matters requested of it by the Bureau.

### **Meetings**

- 8.5 The Council of Presidents shall meet at least on the occasion of each AIPPI annual meeting.
- 8.6 A meeting of the Council of Presidents shall be chaired by the President of the National or Regional Group hosting the respective AIPPI annual meeting with the assistance of the President of the National or Regional Group hosting the following annual meeting, who together shall determine the agenda of the meeting.

## **Article 9 - Bureau**

### **Composition**

- 9.1 The Bureau shall be composed of the following members:
- the President;
  - the First Vice-President;
  - the Second Vice-President
  - the Secretary General;
  - the Reporter General;
  - the Treasurer General;
  - the First Deputy Secretary General;
  - the First Deputy Reporter General;
  - the Second Deputy Secretary General; and
  - the Second Deputy Reporter General.
- 9.2 The Bureau shall convene an Enlarged Bureau from time to time. The Enlarged Bureau shall be composed of the Bureau members, the Assistants to the Reporter General and the Assistants to the Secretary General. The Bureau may invite any AIPPI member to any of its meetings at any time of its choosing.
- 9.3 Members of the Bureau work on a voluntary basis and shall generally only be entitled to receive compensation of their actual expenses.

### **Vacancy in the Bureau**

- 9.4 A vacancy in the Bureau shall occur in the event of the death or resignation of a member of the Bureau.

### **Powers**

- 9.5 The Bureau shall be the Managing Board of the Association and shall be responsible for the direction and management of the Association. It shall keep itself informed of the activities of the different bodies of the Association, and shall take appropriate decisions.

In the exercise of its powers the Bureau shall be guided by the decisions, including those on administrative and financial matters, adopted by the Executive Committee.

The Bureau shall have the power to employ an Executive Director, a Professional Communications Expert and such other staff as it deems necessary to assist in managing the affairs of the Association, and shall establish and maintain a permanent office for the Association.

- 9.6 The Bureau or its delegates shall conduct the external relations of the Association.  
The Bureau shall take the necessary steps to give effect to decisions, Resolutions, and recommendations of the Association.
- 9.7 In cases of urgency or necessity, the Bureau may take any action in the name of the Association. "Necessity" should be understood as authorizing the Bureau to respond to any invitation to submit comments to any consultation by a Governmental Organization or a Non-Governmental Organization concerning matters of substantive intellectual property law, procedure or practice, where same is required within a short time frame when there is no established AIPPI position.
- 9.8 The Bureau may appoint and dissolve committees as is appropriate to exercise its powers.
- 9.9 The Bureau may issue, change and revoke Protocols governing the Bureau and the committees appointed according to Article 9.8.
- 9.10 For any session dealing with specific questions of intellectual property, the Bureau may appoint an Acting Chairperson having relevant experience and expertise.
- 9.11 The working methods of the Bureau and the allocation of duties and powers of the individual members of the Bureau shall be laid down by the Bureau in regulations.  
The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration and the organization of activities and meetings of the Association in cooperation with the Deputy Secretaries General.  
The Reporter General shall be responsible for directing the studies and discussions of the Association and for reporting thereon in cooperation with the Deputy Reporters General.  
The Treasurer General shall be responsible for the finances and the accounts of the Association, including budget preparation and control and monitoring of bookkeeping, auditing and financial administration.

## **Article 10 - Presidency**

### **President and Vice-President**

- 10.1 The President shall be the head of the Association and the Bureau. As head of the Bureau, the President shall chair Bureau meetings, and lead the Association based on decisions taken by the Bureau consistent with the decisions of the Executive Committee and the objects of the Association.
- 10.2 The First Vice-President shall be the deputy to the President and in the absence of the President shall act in the place of the President.
- 10.3 The Second Vice-President shall be the Deputy to the First Vice-President in the event that the President is absent and the First Vice-President is acting in the President's place according to Article 10.2.

## **Article 11 – Statutory Committees**

### **Programme Committee**

- 11.1 The Programme Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.2 The Programme Committee shall be the research organ of AIPPI and shall, in consultation with the Bureau, determine aspects of the annual work programme being Study Questions and designated panel sessions held at AIPPI annual meeting.

### **Nominating Committee**

- 11.3 The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.4 The Nominating Committee shall, in consultation with the Bureau, prepare for the Executive Committee a list of candidates for any openings for elective positions.

### **Finance Committee**

- 11.5 The Finance Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.6 The Finance Committee shall exercise the function of internal controller. It shall review the budget and financial performance of AIPPI and shall report its findings and comments on future budgets and financial planning annually to the Executive Committee.

### **Membership Committee**

- 11.7 The Membership Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.8 The Membership Committee shall make proposals to the Bureau in relation to the needs of AIPPI's existing membership and increasing its membership.

### **Communications Committee**

- 11.9 The Communications Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.10 The Communications Committee shall disseminate information about AIPPI and its activities, both internally and externally.

### **Venue Selection Committee**

- 11.11 The Venue Selection Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee.
- 11.12 The Venue Selection Committee together with the Bureau shall be responsible for proposing the venue for an AIPPI annual meeting.

## **Article 12 - Financial Responsibility**

- 12.1 The Association shall assume financial responsibility for commitments entered into by members of the Bureau within the scope of their duties.

## **Article 13 - Audit and Finance**

- 13.1 The accounting period shall be the calendar year.
- 13.2 The financial operations of the Association shall be audited by one or more auditors.  
The auditor or auditors shall present to the Executive Committee an auditing Report for each accounting period.



The Report shall include a recommendation of release or non-release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.

- 13.3 The Treasurer General shall make available to the Finance Committee on a timely basis the necessary budget and financial information of the Association.

#### **Article 14 - Subscriptions**

- 14.1 The National and Regional Groups shall pay subscriptions annually to the Association on behalf of each of their members.
- 14.2 Independent Members shall pay their subscription annually directly to the Association.

#### **Article 15 - Documentation and Speeches - Languages**

- 15.1 The documents of the Association shall be published in English.

Translations into French, German, Spanish and such other languages as the Bureau decides to add, prepared by the National or Regional Groups and approved by the Bureau, shall be added to the English publications on the AIPPI website.

The following documents shall be published in English, French, German, Spanish and such other languages as the Bureau decides to add:

- Statutes and Regulations,
- Resolutions.

Documents, which aim to promote the Association, shall be published in English and such other languages as the Bureau decides to add, having regard to the culture and language of the target group.

- 15.2 As a rule, English shall be the language used by the participants in meetings of all bodies of the Association, with the exception of General Assemblies, plenary sessions and sessions of the Executive Committee.

Members of the Bureau and Chairpersons of Committees shall speak English in all meetings.

In General Assemblies, plenary sessions and sessions of the Executive Committee, participants may present interventions in English, French, German, Spanish and such additional languages, including the language of the host country, as the Bureau decides to add for a given meeting keeping in mind the importance of the language, its contribution to the visibility of AIPPI and the communication with participants and guests, and costs.

Host Groups of AIPPI annual meetings may decide to provide for simultaneous interpretation into the language of the host country if such interpretation is likely to significantly increase participation.

#### **Article 16 - Amendments of Statutes and Dissolution of the Association**

- 16.1 Amendments to these Statutes and dissolution of the Association shall require a vote of the General Assembly under Article 6.5 or 6.6 respectively, upon a resolution passed by the Executive Committee and placed upon the agenda, the latter being sent to members in accordance with the Regulations.
- 16.2 After dissolution of the Association, the remaining funds shall be transferred to a tax exempt institution domiciled in Switzerland, which pursues similar objects to those of the Association. A distribution among the members of the Association is prohibited.

#### **Article 17 - Interpretation of Statutes, Regulations and other Rules**

- 17.1 These Statutes shall be in English, French and German.
- 17.2 Any Regulations and other directives under Article 7.8 shall be in English, French and German.
- 17.3 The English, French and German texts listed in Articles 17.1 and 17.2 shall be equally authoritative.

**Article 18 – Transition provision**

18.1 This version of the Statutes comes into effect after adoption by the General Assembly. The date, programme and other arrangements of future AIPPI annual meetings for which the invitation has been accepted by the Executive Committee before the date of adoption of this version of the Statutes shall be fixed in accordance with either the scheme of the AIPPI annual meeting valid on the date of the acceptance of the invitation or the scheme of the AIPPI annual meeting valid under this version of the Statutes, following the choice of the inviting National or Regional Group.

-----

The present Statutes replace the Statutes which were adopted by the Constitutive Assembly in 1897 and which had been partially or totally revised by the General Assemblies in Geneva, on June 10, 1927, in Stockholm, on May 31, 1958, in Tokyo, on April 11, 1966, in Venice, on June 13, 1969, in Mexico-City, on November 17, 1972, and in Munich on May 19, 1978.

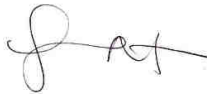
They were first adopted by the General Assembly in Paris on May 27, 1983, and were subsequently amended by the General Assembly in London on June 13, 1986, by the General Assembly in Montreal on June 30, 1995, by the General Assembly in Melbourne on March 30, 2001, by the General Assembly in Geneva on June 21, 2004, by the General Assembly in Gothenburg on October 9, 2006, by the General Assembly in Boston on September 10, 2008, by the General Assembly in Paris on October 6, 2010, by the General Assembly in Seoul on October 23, 2012, by the General Assembly in Toronto on September 17, 2014 and by the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro on October 14, 2015. They came into force in amended form on October 15, 2015.



The President:  
Felipe CLARO



The Secretary General:  
Laurent THIBON



The Reporter General:  
Sarah MATHESON



The Treasurer General:  
Gérard MYON