



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**

**2024**



## **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 nationality, 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, non-political and scientific objects, and related topics.
- 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) 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, nationality, religion, race, national origin or gender and with no requirement of specific professional activity.
- 3.3 All the members of a National or Regional Group shall be members of the Association.
- The specific conditions for membership of each National or Regional Group shall be determined by the Group itself in alignment with the principles set out in 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 shall be based on proposals made by the Bureau.
- 3.6 Any member who is appointed or elected to the Enlarged Bureau or any committee position according to these Statutes, shall fulfil that position independent of the interests of any National or Regional Group.

### **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 new National Group of the Association. Membership of such Group shall also be open to all members previously admitted from that country, such members having been informed accordingly and the majority of such members having explicitly supported 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.
- 4.3 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 alignment 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 at least one annual meeting which shall be open for participation by all members in order to make public its activities and to serve as a forum for contact between members and participants. The name of the primary AIPPI annual meeting shall be the “AIPPI World Congress”.
- 5.2 The AIPPI World Congress 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.
- 5.3 The date, programme and other arrangements of the AIPPI World Congress shall be fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the National or Regional Group hosting the AIPPI World Congress.
- 5.4 The Bureau may, if it so decides, organise and hold other meetings of the Association during a single year.

## **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.

### **Convening of the General Assembly**

- 6 The General Assembly may be convened by the Bureau either:
  - (a) On its own motion; or
  - (b) When it is in receipt of a request to convene the General Assembly from at least one fifth of the members of the Association from at least five National and/or Regional Groups, provided that such request shall include a notification of the reasons for the requested convening of the General Assembly.
- 6.7 The Bureau shall convene the General Assembly by sending a notice to all members of the Association at least four months before the date of the General Assembly, preferably on the occasion of the AIPPI World Congress.
- 6.8 The items of the agenda of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Bureau and shall include the proposals of (a) the Bureau and/or of (b) the members requesting the convening of the General Assembly according to article 6.7. Items may be included into the agenda by the request of at least one hundred members from at least five National and/or Regional Groups, such request having been received by the Bureau at least three months before the date of the General Assembly.
- 6.9 The Bureau shall send the agenda of the General Assembly to all members of the Association at least six weeks before the date of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to modify the agenda at any time before the date of the General Assembly.

## **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 and 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 the number of Delegates per National and Regional Group shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall depend on the size of the Group, and as provided in the Regulations of the Association.
- 7.3 The Bureau shall appoint the 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. The Executive Committee meeting shall be convened at least once annually, preferably during the AIPPI World Congress. The agenda of the Executive Committee meeting(s) shall be sent by the Bureau to the members at least one month before the date of the meetings.

### **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 Nominating 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, and on the proposal of the Bureau: Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General;
  - b) appoint the Auditor or Auditors;
  - c) decide, upon a proposal of the Bureau on the recognition or withdrawal of recognition of National and Regional Groups and suspension and withdrawal of the suspension of National and Regional Groups;
  - d) approve the budget and fix the rate of annual subscriptions payable to the Association;
  - e) give directions to the Bureau, and review and approve its work;
  - f) approve the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; and
  - g) decide on the discharge of the Bureau members and of the auditors in respect of their financial and other responsibilities.

## **Regulations**

- 7.8 The Executive Committee may issue, amend and revoke the Regulations and/or any part thereof, relating to the administration and operation of the Association and its bodies.

## **Quorum and Decisions**

- 7.9 A quorum shall exist for the entirety of the Executive Committee meeting when at least one third of the members of the Executive Committee indicate their presence by taking part in the first 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 taking part in the vote.
- 7.11 The withdrawal of recognition of a National or Regional Group shall be determined by a majority of the members taking part in the vote, provided that two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee are present for the vote.

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

- 7.12 The Executive Committee shall meet on the occasion of each AIPPI World Congress. Any 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 proxy, correspondence or electronically.
- 7.14 A vote by proxy, 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 and 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 so as to share experiences among themselves and to 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 World Congress.
- 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 World Congress with the assistance of the President of the National or Regional Group hosting the following World Congress, 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 to the extent necessary to discharge its duties. The Enlarged Bureau shall be composed of the Bureau members and the Assistants to the Reporter General and to the Secretary General. The Bureau may invite other members to any of its meetings at any time of its choosing.
- 9.3 Members of the Bureau and Assistants to the Reporter General and to the Secretary General discharge their duties on a voluntary basis and shall generally only be entitled to receive reimbursement of their out-of-pocket 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. The Bureau shall, in such cases, appoint a temporary substitute member and submit his/her nomination for election at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

### **Powers**

- 9.5 The Bureau shall be the managing and executive 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, including but not limited to the Statutory, Standing and

Initiative Committees and other committees and shall take appropriate decisions to achieve the purposes of the Association.

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 and supervise 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.

The Bureau shall administer the assets and resources of the Association, manage the accounts, instruct the Auditors and collect the subscriptions from the Independent Members and National and Regional Groups.

- 9.6 The Bureau shall conduct the external relations of the Association. It has the power to engage in consultations, discussions and collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organisations and third parties, so as to achieve the purposes of the Association. It may delegate such duties to the extent it deems fit to any person(s) within the Enlarged Bureau or a committee of the Association or the Executive Director, as it may choose.

The Bureau shall take the necessary steps to give effect to the decisions, Resolutions, and recommendations of the Association.

- 9.7 In cases of necessity, the Bureau may take any action in the name of the Association. "A case of necessity" shall be understood as one authorising 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 such is required within a short time frame when there is no established AIPPI position.

- 9.8 The Bureau may appoint and dissolve Standing and Initiative Committees and other committees as appropriate in the exercise of its powers. The Bureau has the power to appoint all members of Standing and Initiative Committees and other committees based on nominations made by National or Regional Groups, or by Independent Members. The Bureau has the power to appoint additional members to the Initiative Committees and to appoint the leadership of the Standing and Initiative Committees from their members.

- 9.9 The Bureau may issue, amend and revoke the Protocols governing the Bureau, the Committees appointed according to Article 9.8 and other topics related to the administration of the Association.

- 9.10 The Bureau shall convene and organise the General Assembly and the meetings of the Executive Committee and prepare the agendas thereof. It may organise other meetings of the Association and determine their agenda as may be decided by the Bureau from time to time.

- 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. The Bureau is entitled to delegate any of its duties to one or more of the Enlarged Bureau members.

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration and the organization of activities of the Association in cooperation with the Deputy Secretaries General. The Secretary General shall also be responsible for the fostering of relationships with the National and Regional Groups, the Independent Members, the Statutory Committees (with the exception of the Programme Committee), the Initiative Committees and other committees, and shall work with them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities in compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and relevant protocols of the Association.

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 Reporter General shall also be responsible for the operation and management of the Standing Committees in compliance with relevant Protocols, and shall be responsible for fostering the relationship with the Programme Committee.

The Treasurer General shall be responsible for the management of the finances and of the accounts of the Association, including budget preparation and control and monitoring of commercial bookkeeping and accounting, 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 and shall act as a first among equals. As head of the Bureau he/she 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. The President shall be the formal representative 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 his/her place.
- 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**

- 11.1 Each Statutory Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee. Each Statutory Committee shall have Terms of Reference setting out its objectives, role, and responsibilities.

### **Programme Committee**

- 11.2 The Programme Committee shall be the research organ of the Association and shall, in consultation with the Bureau, make proposals regarding aspects of the annual work programme including Study Questions and panel sessions.

### **Nominating Committee**

- 11.3 The Nominating Committee shall, in consultation with the Bureau, propose to the Executive Committee a list of candidates for their election to fill any vacancy(ies) in any elective positions.

### **Finance Committee**

- 11.4 The Finance Committee shall exercise the function of internal controller. It shall review the budget and financial performance of the Association and shall report its findings and comments on future budgets and financial planning annually to the Executive Committee.

### **Membership Committee**

- 11.5 The Membership Committee shall represent the interests of all members within the Association. The Committee shall monitor, comment upon and advise the Bureau in respect of matters affecting members and for the enhancement of the value of the Association to the members.

### **Communications Committee**

- 11.6 The Communications Committee shall assess and review the publications of the Association, as may be required. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for liaising with and guiding the National Regional Group and IM Reporters to enhance the contributions from the National and Regional Groups and Independent Members. The Committee shall monitor, provide commentary and advise the Bureau on matters related to empowering communication channels within and outside of the Association.

### **Venue Selection Committee**

- 11.7 The Venue Selection Committee together with the Bureau and General Secretariat shall be responsible for proposing the venue(s) for the AIPPI World Congress.

## **Article 12 – Standing Committees**

- 12.1 All Standing Committees are governed by a common Protocol that provides for the membership, role and responsibilities thereof and additional separate Terms of Reference relating to a particular area of intellectual property law or particular topics relevant to intellectual property or emerging areas and new developments relevant to intellectual property.

## **Article 13 – Initiative Committees**

- 13.1 Initiative Committees shall be governed by a common Protocol that provides for the membership, role and responsibilities thereof and additional separate Terms of Reference relating to subjects aligned with the objectives of the Association.

## **Article 14 – Other Committees**

- 14.1 The Bureau may appoint and dissolve other committees to comment and advise the Bureau on matters relevant to its power and duties or other specific issue(s) on which the Bureau requires advice.

## **Article 15 - Financial Responsibility**

- 15.1 The Association shall assume financial responsibility for commitments entered into by the Bureau within the scope of its powers.

## **Article 16 - Audit and Finance**

- 16.1 The accounting period shall be the calendar year.
- 16.2 The financial operations of the Association shall be audited by one or more independent Auditors. The Auditor or Auditors shall verify the annual accounts of the Association and submit to the Executive Committee an auditing report. The Report shall include a recommendation of release or non-release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.
- 16.3 The Treasurer General shall make available to the Finance Committee on a timely basis the necessary budget and financial information of the Association.

## **Article 17 - Subscriptions**

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

## **Article 18 - Documentation and Speeches - Languages**

- 18.1 The documents of the Association shall be published in English. Translations into French, German, Spanish and such other languages as the Bureau decides to admit, prepared by the National or Regional Groups and approved by the Bureau, shall be added to the English publications on the AIPPI website. Documents, which aim to promote the Association, shall be published in English and such other languages as the Bureau deems appropriate, having regard to the culture and language of the target group.
- 18.2 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, and sessions of the Executive Committee. Members of the Bureau and Chairpersons of Committees shall as a rule speak English in all meetings.

In General Assemblies, 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 permit 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.

As a rule, interpretation into English shall be provided for interventions in such permitted languages. The organizing committees of AIPPI World Congress may decide to provide for simultaneous interpretation into the language of the host country if such interpretation is likely to significantly increase participation.

### **Article 19 - Liability**

- 19.1 The Association is solely responsible for its debts and obligations, which are guaranteed by its assets, to the exclusion of all individual responsibility of its members.
- 19.2 The members of the Enlarged Bureau and of other bodies of the Association do not have any individual liability.

### **Article 20 - Amendments of Statutes and Dissolution of the Association**

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 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 21 - Transition provision**

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.

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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 Assemblies in London on June 13, 1986, in Montreal on June 30, 1995, in Melbourne on March 30, 2001, in Geneva on June 21, 2004, on October 9, 2006, in Boston on September 10, 2008, in Paris on October 6, 2010, in Seoul on October 23, 2012, in Toronto on September 17, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro on October 14, 2015 and in Cancun on September 26, 2018 and in Hangzhou on October 22, 2024. They came into force in amended form on October 22, 2024.

The President:  
Shoichi Okuyama

The Secretary General:  
Nazlı Korkut

The Reporter General:  
Ari Laakkonen

The Treasurer General:  
Stephane Palix