

## CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES

Conscious of their high responsibility as guardians of the intellectual life;

Conscious of the fundamental principles for which every university should stand, namely: the right to pursue knowledge for its own sake and to follow wherever the search for truth may lead; the tolerance of divergent opinion and freedom from political interference;

Conscious of their obligation as social institutions to promote, through teaching and research, the principles of freedom and justice, of human dignity and solidarity; to develop mutually material and moral aid on an international level;

The universities of the world, through their representatives assembled in conference at Nice, hereby decide to create an international association of universities.

### CHAPTER ONE NAME

#### *Article 1*

The name of the association is the International Association of Universities (IAU).

### CHAPTER TWO PURPOSES

#### *Article 2*

The purpose of the International Association of Universities shall be:

To provide a centre of co-operation at the international level among the universities and similar institutions of higher education of all countries, as well as among organisations in the field of higher education generally, and to be an advocate for their concerns.

### CHAPTER THREE MEMBERSHIP

#### *Article 3*

There shall be two categories of membership of the Association: Member Universities and Member Organisations.

Those degree-conferring institutions, whose main object is education and the development of knowledge, whether or not they carry the name of university, may be admitted as Member Universities.

These institutions must be dedicated to the study of several branches of knowledge and must be at the level of higher education, as shown by the quality of their instruction and the preparatory training demanded of their students, as well as by the active participation of their staffs in scientific or scholarly research and the type of working equipment placed at their disposal.

Exceptionally, however, the Administrative Board, acting under the provisions of Article 4, may admit institutions of high standing, which are concerned with a specialised field of knowledge. The Administrative Board may admit at least one institution of higher learning from each country where such institutions exist, even if on a strict interpretation of the foregoing criteria, no institution in that country would be eligible.

Any association of universities as defined above may be admitted as a Member Organisation.

**Article 4**

Membership of the Association shall be granted or withdrawn by the Administrative Board on the advice of the Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau and after consultation with competent university organisations.

The decision of the Administrative Board shall be subject to appeal to the General Conference.

The rights accorded to Members of the Association by this Constitution may be suspended or Membership may be terminated by decision of the Administrative Board in the case of those Members who have not fulfilled their obligations in regard to the payment of their subscription.

**Article 5**

Each Member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by the Administrative Board. The Administrative Board is authorised to make exceptional arrangements in special cases.

**Article 6**

Every Member shall appoint a correspondent and one alternate to be responsible for relations with the Association. All communications may be validly addressed to this correspondent.

**Article 7**

Members may resign from the Association after giving six months' notice of intention to do so to the Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau; the subscription for the year already started shall remain payable.

**Article 8**

Organisations, institutions and networks and individuals who are regular partners of the Association, working in the field of international higher education and university cooperation but are ineligible to become Members can become IAU Affiliates or Associates by the decision of the Administrative Board.

**CHAPTER FOUR  
INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Article 9**

The organs of the Association shall be:

- a) The General Conference;
- b) The President of the International Association of Universities;
- c) The Administrative Board of the Association;
- d) The International Universities Bureau.

**SECTION I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Article 10**

The General Conference is composed of the Members of the Association. Affiliates may attend the Conference as observers and the Conference may be opened to other observers as well. Any person admitted to a General Conference as observer may be invited to address the Conference, but will not have the right to vote.

Each Member may be represented by a duly accredited representative. But a representative may not exercise more than one vote despite the number of Members he or she may represent.

The total number of votes cast in a Conference by the Members of any one country, may not exceed 25% of the total votes.

### ***Article 11***

The General Conference shall be the supreme organ of the Association; among other things it shall have power:

- a) To determine the general policy of the Association and in particular to determine the extent of collaboration with organisations generally dealing with higher education;
- b) To approve or amend the general framework for the working programmes and budgets of the Association;
- c) To lay down the principles on which subscriptions shall be fixed and periodically to revise them;
- d) To elect the Members of the Administrative Board;
- e) To elect the President of the Association

### ***Article 12***

The General Conference shall meet at least once every four years at the time and place it shall have appointed during its preceding meeting; in case of emergency, this place may be changed by the President of the Association.

It may be convened in extraordinary session on the written request of the majority of Members addressed to the Administrative Board or, if so decided, by the Administrative Board by a two-thirds majority of the Board Members present.

### ***Article 13***

Between General Conferences, there may be annual Conferences of Members to discuss matters of general concern to international higher education. These Conferences do not involve voting on IAU business.

The Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau may participate in the General Conference as Secretary, but shall not take part in the voting.

## ***SECTION II. THE PRESIDENT***

### ***Article 14***

The President of the Association shall be elected by the General Conference by an absolute majority of Members present and voting, and shall remain in office until the election of a new President by the next ordinary General Conference.

He or she shall not be eligible for re-election.

Only persons representing Members of the Association and having served on the Administrative Board shall be eligible for election as President.

### ***Article 15***

The President of the Association shall chair the sessions of the Administrative Board and the General Conference.

## ***SECTION III. THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD***

### ***Article 16***

The Administrative Board shall give effect to the decisions of the General Conference.

It shall:

- a) Elect the Vice-Presidents from among its Members, one of whom shall be a representative of a Member Organisation;
- b) Prepare the agenda of the General Conference and present thereto the working programme to be followed until the next ordinary Conference shall meet;
- c) Direct and control the activities of the International Universities Bureau;

- d) Appoint the Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau, who also acts as Secretary-General of the Association;
- e) Approve or amend the Association's annual working programme and annual budget presented by the Executive Director of the Bureau.

The Administrative Board is responsible to the General Conference to which it shall report concerning all its activities.

**Article 17**

The President and the Vice-Presidents constitute the Executive Committee of the Administrative Board, which will act on its behalf between meetings of the Board.

The Executive Committee, at its first meeting and based on the proposal of the President, will determine who, among the Vice-Presidents, will act as President should the latter be unable to serve in that capacity, and who will act as Treasurer.

**Article 18**

The President chairs the Administrative Board, which consists of 20 Members who shall be elected in their personal capacities in the case of Member Universities, and in their official capacity, in the case of Member Organisations, by the General Conference for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-election once. Only persons representing Members of the Association shall be eligible for election to the Administrative Board. Board membership is normally reserved for Executive Heads who are serving in their position at the time of their election.

When electing these Members due regard shall be paid to the need for ensuring the representation of large geographical regions and the representation of both Member Institutions and Member Organisations, but Members from no country may have more than one representative on the Administrative Board.

The General Conference shall elect, in addition to the Administrative Board Members, a number of Deputy Members from different geographical regions and categories of membership; in case of death, resignation, or a vacancy occurring for any other reason, they shall be called upon to take the place of the full Members from the same geographical region or from the same category of Membership. A full Member may be replaced at a meeting of the Administrative Board by a Deputy Member from the same region or category of membership; should he or she remain absent from two consecutive meetings, except for reasons independent of his or her will, such as health or *force majeure*, he or she shall be replaced definitively by a Deputy Member.

For special purposes, the Administrative Board may co-opt Members who may not meet the above criteria for a period it shall itself determine.

The outgoing President remains an ex-officio Board Member for a further period of four years.

**Article 19**

The Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau shall form part of the Administrative Board and the Executive Committee as Secretary but shall not take part in the voting.

**Article 20**

The Administrative Board shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year. It may be convened for extraordinary sessions by the President and shall be so convened by him or her on the written request of a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Board.

International Organisations may be invited to attend Board Meetings as observers.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the Board may appoint other sub-committees where these shall be deemed necessary.

The expenses of the Administrative Board meetings shall be a charge on the Association.

## **SECTION IV. THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES BUREAU**

### **Article 21**

The International Universities Bureau shall constitute the permanent Secretariat of the Association. Under the supervision of the Administrative Board it shall:

- a) Organise a centre for information on questions of international interest related to higher education and provide, by appropriate means, for the dissemination of this information;
- b) Provide a basis for comparative study of higher education and, through its publications, a platform for international policy research and debate.
- c) Facilitate the interchange of students and academic staff, and develop means for the better distribution and exchange of laboratory material, books and other equipment for university study and research;
- d) Undertake such other tasks as are compatible with the aims of the Association.

### **Article 22**

The Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau shall be appointed by the Administrative Board. The appointment shall be for a period of four years and may be extended for such further periods, as the Administrative Board shall determine. The duties of this office shall normally be considered incompatible with the performance of any other duties, national or international; this requirement, however, may be suspended at the discretion of the Administrative Board.

### **Article 23**

The Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau shall act as Secretary-General of the Association under the authority of the President.

- a) He or she shall represent the Association at law and in all acts of civil life;
- b) He or she shall recruit the staff of the Bureau and shall exercise disciplinary powers over it in accordance with such regulations as may be established by the Administrative Board;
- c) With the consent of the Administrative Board he or she shall accept such subventions and donations as conform to the purposes of the Association;
- d) Every year he or she shall present to the Administrative Board a working programme and a report on the activities of the preceding year;
- e) Together with the Treasurer, every year he or she shall submit a draft budget to the Administrative Board and present for its approval the duly certified accounts for the preceding year.

## **CHAPTER FIVE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANISATION**

### **Article 24**

The headquarters of the Association shall be in Paris. The International Universities Bureau shall establish its services in Paris. They may be moved to another place by a two-thirds majority decision of the General Conference or, in case of emergency and subject to ratification by a two-thirds majority of the General Conference, by the Administrative Board or even the Executive Director of the Bureau.

## **CHAPTER SIX AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **Article 25**

Proposals for the amendment of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, not less than five months before the opening date of the General Conference at which they are to be considered, and copies shall be sent by the Secretariat to all Member Institutions, not less than four months before such opening date. The proposals of which notice has been given in this form shall be debated during the sessions of the General Conference and shall come into immediate effect if adopted on a written ballot by a two-thirds majority of the Members attending a meeting

called for the purpose, provided that the total number of votes cast shall constitute a majority of the Members attending the Conference.

Regulations which are complementary to the Constitution but do not alter it may be adopted by the Administrative Board, and shall come into force immediately; they must, however, be submitted for ratification to the next General Conference.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN DISSOLUTION**

### ***Article 26***

The Association may be dissolved by the decision of a two-thirds majority of Members who have paid their subscription for the preceding year. In case of dissolution, the assets of the Association shall revert to UNESCO.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### ***Article 27***

The English and French texts of the present Constitution shall be regarded as equally authoritative.

*Nice, 9 December, 1950.*

*Amended Istanbul, 24 September, 1955.*

*Amended Mexico, 12 September, 1960.*

*Amended Moscow, 20 August, 1975.*

*Amended Los Angeles, 12 August, 1985.*

*Amended Durban, 22 August, 2000.*

*Amended São Paulo, 28 July 2004.*

*Amended Utrecht, 17 July 2008.*