



International Commission of Jurists Statute

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Preamble | 3 |
| General Provisions | |
| Article 1 — International Commission of Jurists, Legal Status and Headquarters | 3 |
| Article 2 — Mission | 3 |
| Article 3 — Objectives | 3 |
| Membership of the General Assembly | |
| Article 4 — Membership | 4 |
| Article 5 — Election of New Members | 4 |
| Article 6 — Term of Membership | 5 |
| Article 7 — Honorary Members | 5 |
| Governance | |
| Article 8 — Organizational Framework | 6 |
| Article 9 — Responsibility for Policy and Implementation | 6 |
| Article 10 — Meetings of the General Assembly | 6 |
| The Network | |
| Article 11 — National Sections | 7 |
| Article 12 — Affiliated Organisations | 8 |
| Article 13 — Associated Individuals | 9 |
| Officers of the International Commission of Jurists | |
| Article 14 — The President | 9 |
| Article 15 — Vice-Presidents | 9 |
| Executive Committee | |
| Article 16 — Election of the Executive Committee Members and Alternates | 9 |
| Article 17 — Meetings of the Executive Committee | 10 |
| International Secretariat | |
| Article 18 — The Secretary-General | 11 |
| Article 19 — Offices and Staff | 11 |
| Finance | |
| Article 20 — Assets and Liabilities | 12 |
| Article 21 — Financial Advisers | 12 |
| Article 22 — Financial Control | 13 |
| Final Provisions | |
| Article 23 — Dissolution. | 13 |
| Article 24 — Amendment. | 13 |
| Article 25 — Entry into Force | 14 |
| Article 26 — Transition. | 14 |

PREAMBLE

The International Commission of Jurists affirms that human rights and humanitarian law are essential to achieve the goals of a just, democratic, peaceful and humane society.

The International Commission of Jurists affirms that human rights, as articulated in international standards, are universal, interdependent and indivisible.

The International Commission of Jurists affirms that the Rule of Law is indispensable to safeguard and advance all human rights.

The International Commission of Jurists recognizes that an independent judiciary and legal profession, maintaining the highest ethical standards, assume a primary role in achieving these goals.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article I — International Commission of Jurists, Legal Status and Headquarters

1. The International Commission of Jurists is a non-profit and non-political association.
2. The International Commission of Jurists is an association governed by Articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss Civil Code.
3. The Headquarters of the association are in Geneva, Switzerland.
4. The association is registered within the commercial register of Switzerland.

Article 2 — Mission

Subject to the terms of this Statute, the International Commission of Jurists, its General Assembly, Officers, National Sections, Affiliated Organizations and Associated individuals have a duty to give effect to the principles set out in the preamble.

Article 3 — Objectives

The International Commission of Jurists carries out activities at the global, regional, national and local level and in particular takes effective steps to:

1. Support and advance the Rule of Law and human rights on the basis of the principles set out in the preamble;
2. Advance the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession and the administration of justice in full compliance with standards of international law;
3. Promote the global adoption and implementation of international human rights standards and other legal rules and principles that advance human rights and the Rule of Law;
4. Promote the establishment and enforcement of a legal system which protects individuals and groups against violations of their human rights;
5. Promote understanding of and compliance with the Rule of Law and human rights and provide assistance to those to whom the Rule of Law and human rights are denied; and
6. Promote the abolition of the death penalty and support efforts to achieve this goal.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 4 — Membership

1. The General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists shall consist of not more than sixty Commissioners dedicated to the Association's aims and objectives, who are jurists of high standing in their own country or at the international level, and are actively working towards the promotion and implementation of human rights.
2. It is the duty of a Commissioner to work actively towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the association and to assist in the implementation of its programmes, especially for such programmes related to the specific expertise of the Commissioner.

Article 5 — Election of New Members

1. Commissioners shall be recommended by members of the Executive Committee and elected by a simple majority of the Commissioners voting. Voting may take place in person, virtually by electronic means, in a hybrid format, or through written communication.
2. The Secretary General shall consult with National Sections regarding their suggestions for membership as Commissioners of the General Assembly of the

International Commission of Jurists and submit their suggestions to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

3. When making a recommendation to the General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists, the Executive Committee shall give due regard to the views of National Sections and Affiliated Organizations, the need for special expertise, gender, geographical and other forms of diversity.

Article 6 — Term of Membership

1. The term of a Commissioner shall be five years. A Commissioner may be elected for a second term. For reasons to be specified in a recommendation of the Executive Committee, a Commissioner may be elected for a third term.
2. A Commissioner may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary-General.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and after the concerned Commissioner has been afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard, the General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists may end the term of any Commissioner by a simple majority vote if:
 - (a) the Commissioner no longer fulfils the requirements or commitments provided for in Article 4; or
 - (b) the Commissioner accepts an official position which the Executive Committee considers to be in conflict with membership as a Commissioner of the General Assembly.

Article 7 — Honorary Members

1. Distinguished jurists shall be eligible for election as Honorary Members in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Article 5.
2. Former Commissioners may be elected as Honorary Members by decision of the Executive Committee.
3. Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at all meetings of the General Assembly without vote.

GOVERNANCE

Article 8 — Organizational Framework

1. The supreme authority of the Association is vested in the General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Statute and the mandatory provisions of Swiss law, executive authority is vested in the Executive Committee.
3. There shall be an International Secretariat led by the Secretary General. It acts at the direction of the Executive Committee.
4. National Sections, Affiliated Organizations and Associated Individuals, whose rights and duties are set out in Articles 11 to 13 of this Statute and in the National Sections and Affiliated Organizations Agreement, shall assist as far as practicable in the implementation of the objectives of the International Commission of Jurists.

Article 9 — Responsibility for Policy and Implementation

1. The General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists, and when the General Assembly is not in session, the Executive Committee, is responsible for determining the general policy of the Association.
2. The International Secretariat, in cooperation with National Sections, Affiliated Organizations and others, is responsible for implementing and giving effect to the policies and decisions of the General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists and the Executive Committee.
3. The General Assembly, Honorary Members, the International Secretariat, National Sections and Affiliated Organizations shall meet in Congress every fourth year to discuss, and assist in the formulation of the policy and activities of the Association.

Article 10 — Meetings of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists shall meet at least once every two years in person, virtually or in a hybrid format, or whenever it is called into session by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, or at the request of not less than one-fifth of the Commissioners of the General Assembly.
2. The Association waives the appointment of an independent representative if the General Assembly is held through any electronic means or abroad. Between meetings the Commissioners shall be regularly informed by the Secretary General about the activities of the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.
3. The agenda for the meetings of the General Assembly is set by the Executive

Committee. Additions to the agenda may be made by simple majority vote of the General Assembly.

4. The General Assembly of the International Commission of Jurists shall approve the management and financial reports and discharge the Executive Committee from liability at least every two years.
5. Except as otherwise provided in this Statute, the General Assembly shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the Commissioners present and voting.
6. The quorum for the meetings of the General Assembly shall be one-third of its membership. In the absence of a quorum, the Commissioners present at a meeting may, by simple majority vote, take a provisional decision which shall be submitted to a ballot of all members of the General Assembly and shall take effect if approved by a simple majority of Commissioners voting in the ballot.
7. Notice of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be transmitted by the Secretary General by electronic means (including e-mail) at least 20 days before the date of the planned meeting.

THE NETWORK

Article 11 — National Sections

1. The General Assembly may recognize an organization as a National Section of the International Commission of Jurists if:
 - a the Organization commits itself to, and acts in accordance with, the principles of the association as proclaimed in the Preamble of this Statute;
 - b the membership of the organization consists wholly or mainly of jurists and does not represent a political party or movement;
 - c the organization does not promote or work for any objective that contradicts the work and principles of the International Commission of Jurists; and
 - d the organization undertakes to work to implement human rights norms in its own country or region, to co-operate with the International Commission of Jurists and help carry out its programmes.
2. Recognition as a National Section may be granted by the Executive Committee. Recognition may also be granted to sub-national sections, in particular in the case of Federal States, and to Regional Sections that cover more than one country. The creation of Youth Sections is to be encouraged and they may be recognized by the Executive Committee. Sub-national, regional or youth sections shall be subject to the same rights, conditions, and obligations as National Sections.
3. A National Section is autonomous and the General Assembly, its members and the Secretariat are not liable for its actions. A National Section may, in accordance

with the conditions specified in the National Sections and Affiliated Organizations Agreement, use the logo and institutional identity of the International Commission of Jurists, provided that it specifies in all its communications that it is a National Section, Cooperation between the National Section, the Commission and the Secretariat will be carried out in accordance with the National Sections and Affiliated Organizations Agreement.

4. A National Section shall cease to hold that status upon:
 - a) Written notice of resignation to the Secretary-General; or
 - b) Decision by the Executive Committee, after written notice to the Section and affording the Section a reasonable opportunity to be heard, when it:
 - i. is not active; ii. does not fulfill its undertaking under Article 11 paragraph 1 (d); or iii. has acted prejudicially to the International Commission of Jurists.

In the event of termination of Status, the National Section may no longer indicate that it is a Section or affiliated to the International Commission of Jurists.

Article 12 — Affiliated Organizations

1. The General Assembly or the Executive Committee may grant affiliate status to an organization with aims and objectives similar to, and not inconsistent with, the International Commission of Jurists provided such organizations are not or do not represent a political party or movement,
2. In its communications, an Affiliated Organization may state that it is affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists. However, it may not use the logo nor the institutional identity of the association without prior permission.
3. An Affiliated Organization shall cease to hold that status upon:
 - a) Written notice of resignation to the Secretary-General; or
 - b) Decision by the Executive Committee, after written notice to the Affiliated Organization and affording the Affiliated Organization a reasonable opportunity to be heard, when it: i. is not active; ii. does not fulfill its undertaking under Article 12 paragraph 1; or iii. has acted

prejudicially to the aims and objectives of the International Commission of Jurists.

In the event of termination of status, the Affiliated Organization may no longer indicate that it is affiliated to the International Commission of Jurists.

Article 13 - Associated Individuals

The General Assembly or the Executive Committee may decide to formally associate one or more individuals to help promote the ideals and work of the association. Such association may take the form of ambassadors or patrons to help promote the work and augment the resources of the association, or any suitable form.

OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Article 14 - The President

1. The General Assembly shall elect, by a majority of Commissioners voting, one of its members to serve as President of the International Commission of Jurists. The role of the President, who is the titular head of the Association, is to promote the Association. The President may attend and vote at Executive Committee meetings.
2. The President serves a term of two years and may be re-elected twice. The President shall continue to serve until a successor is elected.

Article 15 - Vice-Presidents

1. The General Assembly shall elect, by a majority of the Commissioners voting, two of its members to serve as Vice-Presidents of the International Commission of Jurists. The role of the Vice-Presidents is to replace the President at meetings or functions when the President is unable to attend, The Vice-Presidents may attend and vote at Executive Committee meetings.
2. The Vice-Presidents serve a term of two years and may be re-elected twice. The Vice-Presidents shall continue to serve until their successors are elected.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 16 - Election Of Executive Committee Members and Alternates



1. The General Assembly shall elect, by a majority of Commissioners voting, at least seven but not more than nine Commissioners to serve as members of the Executive Committee. It shall also elect an additional seven Commissioners, to serve as alternate members of the Executive Committee. Voting may take place in person, virtually by electronic means, in a hybrid format, or through written communication.
2. In electing members to the Executive Committee, regard should be had to need for:
 - a. continuity in the service of some of the members;
 - b. gender, geographical and other forms of diversity; and
 - c. representation of the various legal professions and legal systems of the world.
3. Members of the Executive Committee and their alternates shall serve for a period of two years and may be re-elected twice for a further period of two years. The members shall continue to serve until their successors are elected.
4. The Executive Committee shall elect a Chairperson from among its members for a period of two years and he or she may be re-elected twice. In the absence of the Chairperson at any meeting of the Executive Committee, its members present shall elect a Chairperson for that meeting.
5. The International Commission of Jurists' paid staff may only serve the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity, without voting rights.
6. Members of the Executive Committee serve on a voluntary basis and are entitled only to compensation for the real costs and travel expenses. If an honorarium is received, it may not exceed that which would be disbursed for ordinary Association activities. For any activities exceeding the ordinary scope of their function, each Executive Committee member may receive appropriate compensation.

Article 17 — Meetings of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall meet, in person or in a virtual or hybrid format, at least twice a year in Geneva or any other place designated by its Chairperson. An Executive Committee meeting may be called by its Chairperson or by a majority of its members.
2. If a member of the Executive Committee is unable to attend a meeting, the Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary General and the member concerned, may nominate an alternate member, if feasible from the same geographical region to attend in his or her place.
3. A majority of the Executive Committee members, which may include alternates, shall constitute a quorum. The President and Vice Presidents may replace absent Executive Committee members for the purposes of establishing such a quorum. The decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote of all the members of the Committee, their alternates and the President and Vice Presidents present and voting.



4. The Executive Committee, if it deems necessary, may poll the Commissioners on particular issues and matters requiring action prior to a General Assembly meeting. The result of such a poll, by a majority of Commissioners voting, shall be deemed to be a decision of the General Assembly.
5. The Executive Committee may invite up to three persons from National Sections and others to attend and contribute to its discussions, having regard for their special expertise and concerns.
6. The agenda of, and decisions taken by, the Executive Committee shall be communicated to the Commissioners and to the National Sections and Affiliated Organizations.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Article 18 — The Secretary-General

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretary-General for a term of up to five years and may reappoint the Secretary-General for additional terms. It may also appoint an acting Secretary-General during any vacancy in the office or in case of prolonged absence of the Secretary-General preventing him or her from fulfilling his or her duties.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Statute, the Secretary-General shall be in charge of and responsible for the work of the International Secretariat, including all questions relating to administration, finance and staff, and the development, direction and co-ordination of strategies to implement the policies of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.
3. The Secretary-General shall fall under the supervision of the Executive Committee Chairperson and shall prepare such reports as the Executive Committee may require, including financial reports of the International Secretariat and any branch or liaison offices.

Article 19 — Offices and Staff

1. The International Secretariat is situated at the Headquarters of the International Commission of Jurists. The Secretary-General may also establish, subject to

approval by the Executive Committee, such branch or liaison offices as may be required to carry out the work of the Association.

2. Subject to approval by the Executive Committee, the Secretary-General may appoint a Deputy Secretary-General. The role of the Deputy Secretary-General is to assist the Secretary-General and to act as Secretary-General during his or her absence.
3. In accordance with guidelines laid down by the Executive Committee, the Secretary-General may appoint officers for the International Secretariat and any branch or liaison office of the International Commission of Jurists.
4. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General shall attend, without vote, all meetings of the Executive Committee. Legal and other officers may be invited to attend meetings as appropriate.

FINANCE

Article 20— Assets and Liabilities

1. The assets of the International Commission of Jurists shall consist of such funds and resources as approved by the Executive Committee. These funds and resources may be derived from both private and public entities, including national and international governmental sources, sponsorships and partnerships. The independence, principles and policies of the association may not be subject to influence by donors.
2. These assets, and such capital funds as it may have at its disposal, shall, to the exclusion of any personal or collective liability of its members, guarantee commitments entered into by the Association.
3. In case of dissolution, members shall have no personal claim to the assets of the Association. After payment of financial commitments, any remaining assets shall be directed by the General Assembly or the Executive Committee to other associations pursuing similar aims in accordance with the provisions of article 23 below.

Article 21 — Financial Advisers

1. The Executive Committee may choose up to three persons to be Financial Advisers in order to oversee the correct financial running of the International Secretariat and to provide additional technical financial advice.
2. Financial Advisers serve a term of two years which may be renewed.
3. One or more of the Financial Advisers may attend meetings of the Executive Committee.



Article 22 — Financial Control

1. The President, Vice-Presidents, Chairperson of Executive Committee and the Secretary-General may legally represent the Association with third parties.
2. The utilization of assets and funds shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee with the assistance of the Financial Advisers.
3. Accounts shall be audited annually by an independent accredited public accountant approved by the Executive Committee.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 23 — Dissolution

1. The International Commission of Jurists may be dissolved only by a vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of Commissioners of the General Assembly. Such dissolution shall be effected by the Executive Committee or by persons appointed by the General Assembly.
2. In the event of the dissolution of the association, its assets will be allocated in two equal parts and in full to similar tax-exempt public interest institutions or organizations:

Association for the Prevention of Torture
PO Box 137
CH -1211 Geneva 17

World Organisation Against Torture
PO Box 21
CH-1211 Geneva 8

Under no circumstance may the assets of the International Commission of Jurists be disbursed to the association's funders or members, or used for their benefit, whole or in part, in any manner whatsoever.

Article 24 — Amendment

1. This Statute may only be amended by a vote of one half of the membership of the General Assembly and at least two-thirds of those voting. Amendments may be considered and voted in person, virtually by electronic means, in a hybrid format, or through written communication.



2. The General Assembly shall decide on which date any adopted amendment shall enter into force.

Article 25 — Entry into Force

This Statute enters into force on 26 August 2024.

Article 26 — Transition

The Officers and Executive Committee elected under the previous Statute shall remain in office until their successors are elected in accordance with this Statute.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. J. C.', is located on the right side of the page.