

Proposals for Constitutional Amendments



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Proposals submitted by the members

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE IBERO AMERICAN NETWORK

- SUBMITTED BY ASSITEJ ARGENTINA / ATINA

MEMBERSHIP

Acceptation of new members

The Ibero American network proposes a change in the inclusion of new members for the three categories.

We propose that when a National Center, Individual Member or Professional network applies for the Membership, in case of being accepted by the EC they could have one year of “provisional membership” before being confirmed as a full member.

During that year they will have the rights of individual members but they will not pay any fee up to the moment they are confirmed after a year.

This will allow the new member to become in contact with ASSITEJ and participate actively and it will also allow ASSITEJ to evaluate the activity of this new member. In that way, will not be necessary to expel members who apply for membership that afterwards they do not concrete.

This issue was presented in the meeting between the EC and the Ibero American representatives in Montevideo 2019.

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Executive Committee's Proposals for Constitutional Amendments

Green: deleted part

Yellow: new or added part

Amendments concerning Article 1.1 - Name

1.1 Actual

Since the theatrical art is a universal expression of **mankind** and possesses the influence and power to link large groups of the world's people and considering the role that theatre can play in arts education of young generations, an autonomous international organization has been formed which bears the name of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People. The Association shall be known by the acronym ASSITEJ (Association International du Theatre pour l' Enfance et la Jeunesse).

1.1. Proposed

Since the theatrical art is a universal expression of **humanity** and possesses the influence and power to link large groups of the world's people and considering the role that theatre **and the performing arts** can play in arts education of young generations, an autonomous international organization has been formed which bears the name of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People. The Association shall be known by the acronym ASSITEJ (Association International du Theatre pour l' Enfance et la Jeunesse).

Amendments concerning Article 1.2 - Mission

1.2.1 Actual

ASSITEJ recognizes the right of all children and young people to enrichment through the arts and their own cultural traditions, especially theatre culture.

Theatre respects its young audiences by presenting their hopes, dreams, and fears; it develops and deepens experience, intelligence, emotion, and imagination; it inspires ethical choices; it increases awareness of social relationships; it encourages self-esteem, tolerance, confidence, and the free expression of opinions.

ASSITEJ is an advocate for the promotion of theatre for young audiences in principle and practice. It calls on all national and international organizations that recognize the potential of children and young people and their capacity to contribute to the development of society to recognize and support this constitution.

1.1.1 Proposed

ASSITEJ recognizes the **essential** right of all children and young people to enrichment through the arts and their own cultural traditions, especially theatre culture.

Theatre **in particular, and the performing arts in general,** respect its young audiences by presenting their hopes, dreams, and fears; it develops and deepens experience, intelligence, emotion, and imagination; it inspires ethical choices; it increases awareness of social relationships; it encourages self-esteem, tolerance, confidence, and the free expression of opinions.



ASSITEJ is an advocate for the promotion of theatre and performing arts for young audiences in principle and practice. It calls on all national and international organizations that recognize the potential of children and young people and their capacity to contribute to the development of society to recognize and support this constitution.

1.2.3 Actual

ASSITEJ is dedicated to artistic, cultural, political and educational efforts and no decision, action or statement of the Association shall be based on nationality, political conviction, cultural identity, ethnicity, or religion.

1.2.3 Proposed

ASSITEJ is dedicated to artistic, cultural, political and educational efforts and no act of the Association and its members may discriminate on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, economic standing, sexual orientation, cultural identity, national origin, political or religious conviction.

1.2.4 – Total New

Child safety and child rights.

ASSITEJ is committed to promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and will support no action that harms children physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically or culturally.

1.2.5 – Total New

ASSITEJ advocates the representativity and inclusivity of membership for itself and all its members, working with transparency and using democratic principles to ensure that gatekeeping practices (controlling access to the association) are avoided internally and within its members.

Renumbering:

1.2.4 will become 1.2.6

1.2.5 will become 1.2.7

Amendments concerning Article 3 – Object

Actual

3.1.2 To work for the recognition and acknowledgement of theatre for children and young people.

3.1.3 To work for improvement of the conditions of theatre for children and young people all over the world.

3.1.4 To improve the common knowledge of theatre for children and young people worldwide, thus drawing the attention of international and national authorities to the importance of taking children and young people and the artistic work created for them seriously.

3.1.5 To give people working with theatre for children and young people the opportunity to learn about the work of colleagues from other countries and cultures, thus enabling them to enrich theatre for children and young people in their own country.

Proposed

3.1.2 To work for the recognition and acknowledgement of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.



3.1.3 To work for the improvement of the conditions of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people all over the world.

3.1.4 To improve the common knowledge of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people worldwide, thus drawing the attention of international and national authorities to the importance of taking children and young people and the artistic work created for them seriously.

3.1.5 To give people working with theatre and the performing arts for children and young people the opportunity to learn about the work of colleagues from other countries and cultures, thus enabling them to enrich theatre for children and young people in their own country.

Actual

3.2.4. Collection of material and documentation on theatre for children and young people.

3.2.5. Promotion of theatre for children and young people through all media.

3.2.6. Cooperation with other international organizations with related interests.

3.2.7. Introduction and support of proposals made by centres and networks in order to advance the work of theatre for children and young people to appropriate national and international authorities and agencies.

Proposed

3.2.4. Collection of material and documentation on theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.

3.2.5. Promotion of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people through all media.

3.2.6. Cooperation with other international organizations with related interests.

3.2.7. Introduction and support of proposals made by centres and networks in order to advance the work of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people to appropriate national and international authorities and agencies.

Amendments concerning Article 4 – Members

Actual

ASSITEJ is created to facilitate the development of theatre for children and young people at the highest artistic level. No theatre, organization or individual can be refused admittance to membership of ASSITEJ on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, sexual orientation, cultural identity, national origin, or political or religious conviction.

Proposed

ASSITEJ is created to facilitate the development of theatre in particular, and the performing arts in general, for children and young people at the highest artistic level. No theatre, organization or individual can be refused admittance to membership of ASSITEJ on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, economic standing, sexual orientation, cultural identity, national origin, or political or religious conviction.

Actual

4.2 Categories of membership:

1. Full membership

National centres and networks



2. Corresponding membership

Those national centres and networks that are unable to meet the full criteria for membership, but can meet less stringent criteria as defined in Article 4.3.

3. Non-voting membership

Individual members (theatre companies, organizations, or persons) dedicated to theatre for children and young people, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

Proposed

4.2 Categories of membership:

1. Full membership

National centres and networks

2. Corresponding membership

Those national centres and networks that are unable to meet the full criteria for membership, but can meet less stringent criteria as defined in Article 4.3.

A member can also choose the corresponding membership if its economic conditions do not allow it to fulfil the full membership.

3. Non-voting membership

Individual members (theatre companies, organizations, or persons) dedicated to theatre for children and young people, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

Actual

4.2 Categories of membership:

4.2.3. Non-voting membership

Individual members (theatre companies, organizations or persons) dedicated to theatre for children and young people, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

Proposed

4.2 Categories of membership:

4.2.3. Non-voting membership

Individual members (theatre companies, organizations, or persons) dedicated to theatre **and the performing arts** for children and young people, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

Actual

4.3 Definitions of members:

4.3.3 Individual members:

4.3.3.1. Individual members are theatre companies, organizations or persons dedicated to theatre for young audiences, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

4.3.3.2. Individual members are non-voting members.

Proposed

4.3 Definitions of members:

4.3.3 Individual Membership



4.3.3.1. Individual members are theatre companies, organizations or persons dedicated to theatre and the performing arts for young audiences, who are not able to participate in other forms of ASSITEJ membership.

4.3.3.2 Individual membership is a non-voting membership and needs to be renewed after every three year period.

4.3.3.3 Individual members are encouraged to work over time towards a change of status that will allow them voting rights in another capacity of membership.

4.3.3.4 Individual members are strongly encouraged to actively cooperate with other members of ASSITEJ to embark on projects or programmes which advance the aims of the Association.

4.3.4 National Centres, particular conditions of membership – Total New

1. Additional memberships

Theatres or artists, living and operating in a particular country, may be members of more than one National Centre, provided they are first members of the National Centre of their country of residence, and that they meet the requirements of membership of both organisations.

2. Neighbour membership

Theatres or artists operating in countries without National Centres and where there are no real possibilities to develop a National Centre in their country at this time, can apply to join a geographically nearby National Centre, who may accept them under a clear set of criteria to be determined by that National Centre.

Renumbering:

Current 4.3.4 will become 4.3.5

Amendments concerning Article 6 - Application, Resignation, Suspension, Expulsion

6.2. Total New

Membership will become effective and will be recorded in the "Members Book" after the payment of the annual fee. Only after this effective admission, will the name of the member be included on any public listing of members.

6.3. Total New

If a prospective member knows that they are unable to pay the annual member fee for proven and objective conditions of economic difficulty, they must specify this in their application. They can request the Executive Committee to support their membership for the first year, in the spirit of solidarity, to be revised on an annual basis. In the absence of this explicit request, non-payment will result in the non-activation of the membership.

Renumbering:

The articles from 6.2 to 6.5

Amendments concerning Article 7 – Income, Funds, Financial Year and Budget

7.3 Actual

The financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December every year. Within 4 months after the end of the financial year, the Treasurer shall prepare the "financial statements" to be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee. The financial statements need to be approved by the Executive Committee before the month of December of the year after the end of the accounting period. (May 2017)



Every time it meets, the General Assembly shall ratify the accounts for the period between one General Assembly and the next against the mission budget set at the previous General Assembly.

7.3 Proposed

The financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December every year. Within 4 months after the end of the financial year, the Treasurer shall prepare the “financial statements” to be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee. The financial statements need to be approved by the Executive Committee before the month of December of the year after the end of the accounting period. (May 2017)

Every time it meets, the General Assembly shall ratify the accounts for the period between one General Assembly and the next against the mission budget set at the previous General Assembly.

The **mission budget** set has a guiding function and is not binding. Therefore, the Executive Committee, if it deems it appropriate, may modify it in order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives proposed by the Working Plan adopted by the General Assembly.

7.5 . Total New

The Executive Committee can waive or reduce the annual fee for those members who might find themselves in heavy and documented economic distress.

The Executive Committee may also identify and use other instruments such as Solidarity funds or Mutual fees to sustain the membership.

Renumbering:

The articles 7.5 and 7.6

Amendments concerning Article 9 – Voting Rights

Actual

9.2 Voting Rights of the General Assembly

9.2.2. Voting by proxy is permitted. A center or network wishing to transfer its proxy must do so in writing. A delegation from a national center or a network can hold proxy for only one other member (whether national center or network). A full member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy for any full or corresponding member (whether national center or network). A corresponding member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy only for another corresponding member (whether national center or network).

9.2.3 Non-voting members are invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly. These members are encouraged to find ways to formally associate with others to become part of the voting membership of ASSITEJ.

Proposed

9.2.2. All voting (whether in person or online) requires a voting commission to audit the vote and check its reliability. This commission will be appointed ahead of the General Assembly meeting and will operate according to a voting regulation as decided by them together with the Executive Committee.

9.2.3 Online voting can happen in two ways: for simple decision making (for example, the acceptance of an agenda), the voting can take place by a simple online poll; for more complex decisions, the online voting process will be permitted over a sufficient period of time to allow for participation in all time zones (i.e. not less than 24 hours). Online voting should use mechanisms



where the security of the vote, the anonymity of the vote and the integrity of the vote cannot be called into question.

9.2.3 Voting by proxy is permitted, where this is required. A center or network wishing to transfer its proxy must do so in writing. A delegation from a national center or a network can hold proxy for only one other member (whether national center or network). A full member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy for any full or corresponding member (whether national center or network). A corresponding member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy only for another corresponding member (whether national center or network).

Renumber 9.2.3 as **9.2.4**

Actual

9.3 Meetings of the General Assembly

9.3.1 The Association shall meet in General Assembly at the World Congress at least once in every three calendar years, with the formal announcement of this meeting made at least six months in advance by the Secretary General upon instruction of the President. The General Assembly will decide on the location of the next General Assembly and World Congress, but if it should be unable to make a decision on this matter, or if a change of location should prove necessary, this decision will be left to the Executive Committee.

9.3.2 The Association may meet between two World Congresses. Members may propose an already existing event of international or regional significance for selection as an "ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering". These event/s will be selected by the General Assembly.

9.3.3 A Special Meeting of the General Assembly may be called by the Secretary General three months in advance on the written and justified request of two-thirds of the members or at the discretion of the Executive Committee in the case of an emergency or extraordinary circumstance. This special meeting may take the form of online voting or video conferencing or similar technology. The seat of the Assembly shall be the one where the President is.

Proposed

9.3.3 A Special Meeting of the General Assembly may be called by the Secretary General **three weeks in advance** on the written and justified request of two-thirds of the members or at the discretion of the Executive Committee, in the case of an emergency or extraordinary circumstance.

9.3.4 **While the physical meeting of the General Assembly is to be prioritised, access to meetings via technology should be made available for those unable to travel. All Meetings of the General Assembly may take place partially online (blended format) or fully online, using video conferencing, online voting and similar technology.** The seat of the Assembly shall be the one where the President is.

Actual

9.5.3 A meeting of the General Assembly can only be held if the delegates of at least one-third (1/3) of the full and corresponding members state in writing to the Secretary General their determination to be present and to participate, either in person or by proxy. This notification of attendance must be sent to the Secretary General three (3) months in advance of the meeting.

Proposed

9.5.3 A meeting of the General Assembly can only be held if the delegates of at least one-third (1/3) of the full and corresponding members state in writing to the Secretary General their determination to be present and to participate, either in person **(whether physically or online)** or

by proxy. This notification of attendance must be sent to the Secretary General three (3) months in advance of the meeting.



Amendments concerning Article 10 – Executive Committee

Actual

10.2. Meetings of the Executive Committee

10.2.2 The Executive Committee will meet at least once each calendar year; the Committee will decide by majority vote if it is necessary to hold additional meetings, and will choose the places and dates of such meetings. The committee must be notified three (3) months in advance for physical meetings. Meetings will be called by the Secretary General at the request of the President.

Proposed

10.2.2 The Executive Committee will meet at least once each calendar year; the Committee will decide by majority vote if it is necessary to hold additional meetings, and will choose the places and dates of such meetings. The committee must be notified three (3) months in advance for physical meetings and two (2) weeks in advance for online meetings. Meetings will be called by the Secretary General at the request of the President.

Total New

10.2.3 In addition to full meetings of the Executive Committee, smaller working group meetings may be called, either physically where this is convenient, or online.

Definitions, etc.:

Total New

Application: the act of applying for membership as a Full, Corresponding or Non-voting member

Rejection: when the application for membership is not accepted by the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ for some specific reason of not meeting the criteria for membership

Non-activation: When the application for membership is not accompanied by communication around payment of the membership fees, and these fees are not paid, in order to activate the membership

Resignation: When a member of ASSITEJ elects to leave the Association for reasons of their own

Suspension: When the membership of ASSITEJ by a Full, Corresponding or Non-voting member is put on hold for a defined period of time in order for that member to meet certain criteria identified by the EC related to the obligations of membership.

Expulsion: When the Full, Corresponding or Non-voting member will no longer be considered part of the association, due to non-compliance with one or more of the obligations of membership. Reasons for expulsion include but are not limited to: non-payment of fees for three or more years; non-communication and non-responsiveness; exclusivity, lack of representation or gate-keeping activity; refusal to adhere to the constitution of ASSITEJ; bringing ASSITEJ into disrepute.



Solidarity funds: Contributions that are made by members , on top of their annual fee, towards a fund that supports another member in the payment of their fees, so that they can remain as voting members. The member who is seeking assistance from the solidarity Fund, makes an application to ASSITEJ

Mutual fees: One National centre pays for another National centre's membership to ensure their engagement.

Online meetings: Meetings which use technology, such as Zoom, Skype, other forms of video conferencing or WhatsApp, to facilitate the meeting. All efforts should be made to ensure equity of participation in meetings, so that members are not disadvantaged by lack of access to technology.