

Constitution of the International Commission of Historical Demography (ICHHD)

As adopted by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of August 11th, 2000, Oslo and changed by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of August 23rd 2010, Amsterdam.

Article 1 Definition

- 1-a The International Commission of Historical Demography (hereafter called ICHHD) is an international non-governmental organization, whose permanent domicile and address is at Geneva, Switzerland.
- 1-b The ICHHD is an association of members of different nationalities, whose aim is to encourage the study of the history of population and the family, and to further scientific exchange between scholars and researchers. The ICHHD takes an interest in initiatives aiming at the development, the diffusion and the teaching of the science of historical demography.
- 1-c The ICHHD is governed by the statutes edited in the English language. Texts in other languages carry no juridical validity.
- 1-d The ICHHD has no fixed limit to the duration of its existence.
- 1-e The permanent address of the ICHHD is at Geneva, Switzerland, as long as the Board does not decide otherwise.
- 1-f. The ICHHD recognizes as its date of foundation August 1960, at the General Assembly of the XIth International Congress of the International Committee of the Historical Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden.
- 1-g The address of the secretariat of the ICHHD is decided by the Board.

Article 2 Mode of action

- 2-a The ICHHD acts through a website, meetings and publications.
- 2-b Working languages of the website, meetings and publications are French and English. The chairperson of a ICHHD meeting decides upon whether an immediate translation into the other language is feasible. The editor in charge of a ICHHD publication decides upon the languages to be used in that publication.
- 2-c The person responsible for a ICHHD meeting is appointed by the Board.

- 2-d The person responsible for a ICHD publication is appointed by the Board.
- 2-e The person responsible for the ICHD website is appointed by the Board.
- 2-f. The ICHD endorses the principles of open access. To assure this principle the ICHD will follow the principles of the creative common standard (see creativecommons.org.) to communications presented at the meetings which it organizes, whatever language is used. The ICHD will follow the same principles with regard to the copyright of its publications, whatever the manner of financing, the date, the language, or the place of publication. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if necessary to ensure publication, the ICHD may cede the copyright to a third party by way of a written contract duly signed by a legal representative of the ICHD.
- 2-g The ICHD cooperates with other organizations, public or private, national or international, which may aid it -morally, materially or financially - in achieving its aims as defined in article 1-b.

Article 3 Members

- 3-a Members of the ICHD are elected according to the procedure described in article 3-d
- 3-b Members should already have contributed to the history of population and the family through research, publications, teaching or in other ways.
- 3-c Members should be able to communicate at least in French or English.
- 3-d To become a member of the ICHD, it is necessary to be accepted by the Board, which decides on the qualifications for admission. Candidates for membership in the ICHD should be presented to the Board in a letter of recommendation by a member of the ICHD.
- 3-e Membership is lost by resignation, decease or expulsion by the Board. Expulsion takes effect by means of a registered letter to the party in question.
- 3-f The Membership Secretary keeps a list of current members in accordance with article 3-l.
- 3-g There are several types of members:
 - A/ Ordinary members
 - B/ Members who are national correspondents
 - C/ Members who are organizations in the fields of the history of population and the family
 - D/ Honorary presidents and officers.

- 3-h The Board decides how the members are classified by type, and is free to modify the classification.
- 3-i A national correspondent does not necessarily reside in the country for which he/she is responsible. A corresponding member can cover several countries at the same time. There can be several correspondents for the same country.
- 3-j Members pay a membership fee. Former presidents, honorary presidents and honorary officers are exempted from paying the membership fee. The height of the fee is regulated in the By-Laws, according to article 6-e.
- 3-k A member of the ICHD can be represented at a General Assembly by a member, to whom the member must have given a written mandate.
- 3-l The content of the membership list is detailed in the By-Laws, according to article 6-e.
- 3-m The handling of the lists of membership will be in accordance with strict privacy protection. Precise directives concerning this point are detailed in the By-Laws, according to article 6-e.

Article 4 General assemblies

- 4-a The General Assembly comprises all members of the ICHD. All the members duly inscribed, according to article 3-f and 3-l, have the right to vote. Vote by electronic mail is permitted which must arrive at least three days before the voting will take place. Once Board members have been elected, voting for the detailed responsibilities inside the Board is regulated in article 5-c.
- 4-b The agenda of the General Assembly is drawn up by the Board
- 4-c The General Assembly meets at least once every 5 years.
- 4-d This quinquennial assembly is called the Statutory General Assembly.
- 4-e If need be, or on the occasion of a scientific meeting, or at the written proposal of half of the registered members plus one, the Board can convoke a General Assembly, called an Ordinary General Assembly.
- 4-f The President, assisted by the members of the Board, presides over the General Assembly. At the Statutory General Assembly, the President reports upon the moral and financial situation of the ICHD.
- 4-g At the Statutory General Assembly, after the business on the agenda has been attended to, one proceeds to the replacement of the outgoing members of the Board.

- 4-h At the General Assemblies, only matters registered on the agenda should be treated.
- 4-i French and English are the languages used at the General Assemblies. Interventions in other languages must be translated in one working language. The President decides whether an immediate translation into another language is opportune.
- 4-j The Secretary General notifies members of the time and place of the General Assembly by way of electronic mail. The Board has no responsibility for notifications that have become lost due to wrong email addresses or causes beyond its control.

Article 5 The Board

- 5-a The ICHD is governed by a Board composed of members elected for a 5-year period by the Statutory General Assembly.
- 5-b The members of the Board can be re-elected only once. The Board may propose dispensation of this rule to a maximum of three sitting members per 5-year period.
- 5-c The Board elects among its members a President, one vice-President, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and a Membership Secretary. If the outgoing President is re-elected to the Board, he/she cannot be appointed President for a second period.
- 5-d In case of a vacancy, the Board may make a temporary replacement of this member. The next Statutory General Assembly makes the replacement definitive by a regular open election of one of the candidates. The period of the temporary replacement does not count as an election period mentioned in article 5-a and 5-b. Any member designed as a temporary replacement during the 5-year period is nominated only for the said period.
- 5-e Candidates for membership on the Board should be presented in writing to the Board at least four months in advance of a Statutory General Assembly. Candidates must have accepted their candidacy. Organizations are not eligible to the Board.
- 5-f The Board must consist of persons of different nationalities with a maximum of two for each nationality.
- 5-g The members of the Board should communicate at least in French or English, and if possible, in both languages.
- 5-h The Board consists of at least 7 and at most 12 members.
- 5-i The Voting process concerning Board members is detailed in the By-Laws, according to article 6-e.

- 5-j The Secretary General should convoke at least one meeting of the Board between two Statutory Assemblies.
- 5-k The Board appoints the persons responsible for meetings, working-groups and publications.
- 5-l A member who has served as President or Officer ~~vice-President~~ is eligible for an honorary Presidency or Officership. Honorary Presidents and Officers are non-voting ex-officio members of the Board. The procedure to make one Honorary is detailed in the By-Laws according to article 6-e.
- 5-m A member of the Board who has been absent from the meetings of the Board two times in a row, without valid reason, is considered by the Board as retiring.
- 5-n A member of the Board can be represented at a meeting of the Board by another member of the Board, with the right to vote. The Board can invite experts to the meeting of the Board, but these invited persons have no right of vote.

Article 6 Administrative functions

- 6-a The members of the Board function without remuneration. They serve at their own risk and peril. Travel expenses are secured by the members of the Board themselves, if possible with the assistance of the respective national committees or some other organization.
- 6-b The Secretary General draws up the minutes of the proceedings of the General Assembly and of the Board, and preserves the archives of the ICHD.
- 6-c The minutes of the proceedings of the Board are communicated only to members of the Board.
- 6-d The ICHD is represented in court and officially by the President or the Secretary General.
- 6-e The Board can, if it so wishes, adopt By-Laws to implement the statutes, notably those that concern the internal administration of the ICHD.

Article 7 Modification of the Statutes

- 7-a The Statutes can be modified on the proposal of the Board or by written proposal by one third of the members of the ICHD, the latter having to be presented to the Board at least four months in advance of a General Assembly.

7-b Any modification of the present Statutes must be ratified by majority vote at a General Assembly.

Article 8 Resources

8-a The budget of the ICHD is supplied through membership fees from the scientific institutions that adhere to it, various fees, registration fees at meetings, subscription fees, subsidies, gifts and legacies

8-b The Board decides upon the amount of the annual fee.

8-c The financial year starts on January 1, and terminates on December 31 of the same year.

Article 9 Dissolution

9-a The dissolution of the ICHD can be decided by at least two-thirds of the members present at a Statutory General Assembly. This General Assembly must appoint a liquidator.

By-laws of the Constitution of the International Commission of Historical Demography (based on article 6-e of the constitution).

Article 1 Voting process concerning Board members

- 1-a The Board makes up a list of candidates for the Board per nationality at least three months in advance of a Statutory General Assembly.
- 1-b In case more candidates are available than allowed according to article 5f en 5h of the constitution a vote must be organized between the third and second month in advance of a Statutory General Assembly.
- 1-c In case more candidates from the same nationality are available the vote will take place within the group of each nationality.
- 1-d In case more than twelve candidates are available the vote will take place between groups of nationality and if necessary within each group of nationality according to article 1-c of this by-laws.
- 1-e The Board may limit the number of nationalities to a minimum of ten, giving article 5f of the Constitution which governs that maximal two persons with the same nationality may enter the Board.
- 1-f All ICHD members may vote despite nationality. In case of an equal division of votes the out-going President will make a decision.
- 1-g The voting process will be secret and handled by way of electronic voting software (internet-voting). The Membership Secretary is responsible for the voting process.

Article 2 Membership list

- 2-a The membership list of ordinary members consists of the following elements: First name, Family name, Year of Birth, Title, Institutional affiliation and Email-address and in case of membership by way of an intermediary organisation the Name of the organization.
- 2-b The membership list of members acting as national correspondents consists of the elements of an ordinary member and of the Name of the country(s) of correspondence and Period of appointment as correspondent.
- 2-c The membership list of organizations consists of the name of the organization, the constituting elements (like countries or discipline) and for the contact person the elements as in article 2-a.

2-d The membership list is protected by a password.

Article 3 Membership fee

3-a The height of the membership fee will be a decision of the General Assembly on proposal of the Board.

3-b The Treasurer is responsible for the cashing of the fee.

3-e The membership fee may be differentiated according to the type of membership as regulated by article 3-g of the Constitution.

3-d The membership fee may be zero.

Article 4 Honorary presidents and officers

4-a Out-going Board members who have been in charge with an office may be designated honorary presidents or officers according to their function.

4-b Both Board and General Assembly may come forward with a proposal for an honorary ship

4-c Decision on honorary ships will be taken with an ordinary majority vote