

CONSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS, 1997 PRESENTED TO THE XVIII INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS

Rule:

(1) Name

International Grassland Congress

(2) Aims and Objectives of the Congress

The main aim of the International Grassland Congress shall be to promote interchange of scientific information on all aspects of natural and cultivated grasslands.

For the fulfilment of this aim, an International Grassland Congress shall normally be held every 3 years for the purpose of presenting papers and reports, organizing symposia and conducting pre- and post-Congress tours¹.

(3) Membership

Membership of the Congress shall be open to any person interested in grassland studies in any country of the world.

Types of membership:

There shall be three categories of membership.

- (A) Full members (with limited voting right). Official representatives of Governments, grassland scientists and others interested in the study of grasslands. Full members shall be required to pay the registration fee as decided upon by the Congress Organizing Committee. The membership fee of scientists invited by the host country shall be borne by the host country. Full members shall have voting rights as given in Rule (4) (ii).
- (B) Day members (without any voting right). Grassland scientists and others who wish to attend only certain Sessions of the Congress. The membership fee of Day members shall be determined by the Congress Organizing Committee.
- (C) Associate members (without any voting right). Generally wives and children of full members. They shall be charged a nominal membership fee.

(4) Voting rights

For the purpose of adopting resolutions and recommendations, only full members of the Congress shall be entitled to one vote and results shall be determined by the showing of hands.

For the purposes of any amendment to the Constitution of the Congress and for deciding the venue of the next Congress, the procedure of the United Nations, namely, one country one vote, shall be followed (definition of country as adopted by United Nations). Where more than one member of a country attends the Congress, the head of the delegation only will have the voting right for the purposes of amendment to the Constitution and for selection of the venue. The names of the head of the delegation of each country shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Continuing Committee before the start of the Final Business

¹ To evaluate and project newer problems in the direction of grassland amelioration, to evaluate possible boomerangs of chemicalization, improvement of the cattle industry, to quantify and systematize balanced relations between feed and feeding animals and to evaluate methods for training of grassland workers, will be come of the objectives of the Congress.

Meeting. For the purposes of the amendment to the Constitution and for selecting the venue, a secret ballot system shall be followed.

(5) Amendment to the Constitution

Proposed amendments to the constitution may be made by any full member. They must be sent in writing to the Chairman of the Continuing Committee at least six months before the Congress Session. Details of the proposed amendment shall be announced by the Chairman of the Continuing Committee at the First Business Meeting, and the final decision for adoption or otherwise shall be taken by voting at the Final Business Meeting at the same Congress.

Two thirds of the total votes must be in favour for the amendment to be adopted. Any amendment thus passed shall come in force at the end of the Congress in which it has been adopted.

(6) The Continuing Committee

(A) The members of the Continuing Committee shall consist of one representative from each of the following geographical regions. No country can be represented on the Continuing Committee for more than two successive terms.

- Region I North America (Canada, United States of America).
- Region II Central America (mexico, all Caribbean countries, all Central American countries southwards to include Panama).
- Region III South America (all countries south of Panama)
- Region IV South East Asia (Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Northern Himalayan countries, Philippians, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam).
- Region V Australasia (Australia, New Zealand).
- Region VI East Asia (China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea)
- Region VII Middle East (Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen).
- Region VIII Mediterranean and Near East (Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Yugoslavia).
- Region IX Europe excluding regions VIII and X (Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK)
- Region X Northern Eurasia (Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Rumania, USSR)

Region XI Africa excluding regions VII and VIII.

Congress President or nominee of the host country of the immediately preceding Congress.

- (B) The new members of the Continuing Committee shall be nominated from the participating delegates in attendance at the International Grassland Congress, provided they are invitees/full members.

The procedure of election shall be as follows:

- (i) The Chairman of the outgoing Continuing Committee shall, in consultation with the Congress President, appoint a Nominating Committee of five members who shall be senior members of the International Grassland Congress, preferably past Congress Presidents and past Chairmen of the Continuing Committee, who shall nominate one candidate from each geographical region. In selecting the candidate for nomination, the Nominating Committee shall use its own discretion with respect to the qualifications of the nominee regarding his subject and research contribution, etc.
- (ii) The nominations must be in the hands of the Chairman of the Continuing Committee at least one day before the Final Business Meeting.
- (iii) The Chairman shall announce the new members of the Continuing Committee at the Final Business Meeting.
- (iv) The term of office for each member of the Continuing Committee shall not exceed two terms. One term means the period between two Congresses. The terms of office shall be arranged so that five or six members will normally be elected at each Congress. To establish this rotation, seven new members will be elected at the XIII Congress of which five will serve until the XV Congress and two to the XIV Congress; the remaining four members will be from the current Continuing Committee who have not served for two terms. At the XIV Congress six members will be elected to serve for two terms.

(C) Organization of the Continuing Committee

- (i) The Continuing Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairman. Only those members who have served for one term shall be eligible for Chairman.
- (ii) For the purpose of electing a new Chairman, the retiring Chairman shall convene a joint meeting of the old and newly elected Continuing Committee members and hold the election either by raising hands, or secret ballot, as he thinks proper. The names should be duly proposed and seconded. This meeting shall be held after the Final Business Meeting.

The newly elected Chairman of the Continuing Committee shall take over from the old Chairman at the same joint meeting of the Continuing Committee. The outgoing Chairman shall hand over his office after reviewing the activities of the Continuing Committee during the tenure of his office.

The host country of the ensuing Congress shall allocate funds to cover office expenditure incurred by the Chairman. The amount is to be decided by mutual agreement.

- (D) *Responsibilities of the Continuing Committee* will be to provide continuity to the International Grassland Congress between meeting of the Congress. These include:

- (i) The Chairman, in consultation with the Continuing Committee,

shall advise the Organizing Committee of the forthcoming Congress regarding programmes and arrangements.

- (ii) The Chairman shall receive invitations for holding the next International Congress. All invitations from the member countries must be received at least one year before the ensuing Congress. The Chairman shall put the names of the proposed host countries to vote by the members of the Continuing Committee by correspondence. The names will be accompanied by details of the facilities that can be offered by these countries for holding the Congress. The venue of the next Congress will be determined by a simple majority of votes of the Continuing Committee, using a preferential voting system (single transferable vote) if necessary. The Chairman shall declare the result at the First Business Meeting for the information of the Congress. If no country receives a majority, the Chairman shall put the names of the two countries receiving the highest number of votes before the Final Business Meeting for voting according to the Rule (4) (ii) using secret ballot papers which will be issued to the voting members by the Chairman of the Continuing Committee.
- (iii) The Chairman shall maintain a list of members of at least the past two Congresses and of interested persons whom the host country should send the first circular regarding the forthcoming Congress.
- (iv) The Continuing Committee, through its Chairman shall ensure that action is taken on all the resolutions adopted at the past Congress.
- (v) Conduct of any other necessary affairs that require attention between meetings of the Congress including making alternate arrangements if the invited country is able to proceed with the Congress. He shall then invite the country obtaining the next highest votes.

(E) Duties of the Chairman of the Continuing Committee at the Congress Session

- (i) He shall preside over the First Business Meeting at the next Congress.
- (ii) He shall form a Nominating Committee as in Rule (6) (B) (i).
- (iii) He shall convene and conduct the joint meeting of the Continuing Committee after the Final Business Meeting for the purpose of electing the new Chairman and for handing over the charge.
- (iv) He shall announce the venue for holding the next Congress or hold an election for the purpose as prescribed in Rule (6) (D) (ii).
- (v) He shall present his address at the Inaugural Session.

(7) Congress President

- (i) The host country shall have fullright to name the Congress President.
- (ii) The Duties of the Congress President shall include Chairing the inaugural function, Plenary Sessions and Final Business Meeting. He shall be completely responsible for the organization of the Congress.
- (iii) The Congress President shall become an *ex-officio* member of the Continuing Committee for one term. Alternatively he may nominate an *ex-officio* member to represent his country on the Continuing Committee.

(8) Congress Sessions

Every Congress shall start with an Inaugural Session presided over by the Congress President. No business shall be transacted at this Session. The details of the inaugural function shall be the responsibility of the host country.

Preferably on the same day, before starting Plenary Sessions,

the First Business Meeting shall be held presided over by the Chairman of the Continuing Committee. Details of this meeting shall be worked out by the Chairman of the Continuing Committee. Details of this meeting shall be worked out by the Chairman in consultation with the Congress President. Any amendment to the Constitution of the Congress and recommendations shall be put by the proposer or his nominee for consideration. These shall be accepted or rejected only at the Final Business Meeting. The method of voting prescribed in Rule (4) shall be followed. The time for presenting an amendment or recommendation should not be more than 5 minutes.

(9) The Proceedings of the Congress

shall be printed and published by the host country and forwarded to all the full members. Likewise, the host country shall be responsible for inviting the contributions to the Congress and printing them in the form of pre- Congress documents.

(10) The Host Country

- (I) Once a country has been invited and has accepted to act as host to a Congress, it shall have complete responsibility for deciding the precise venue, programme, number of participants, etc., but the organizers shall be free to seek advice, if they so wish, from other countries, and the Continuing Committee.

- (II) At the completion of a Congress, the Secretariat of that Congress should hand on as much information as possible to the organizers of the next Congress.

This should include:

- (a) The complete mailing list used by the outgoing Secretariat.
- (b) A full list of members of the immediate past Congress, associate members, etc.
- (c) The list of reply cards including the names of the workers who were unable to attend the Congress.
- (d) Samples of all relevant forms, tickets, programmes, account forms, membership badges, etc.
- (e) Details of all resolutions minuted to the next Congress.