

**IANAS STATUTES**  
**Adopted at the IANAS General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
**7 May 2016**

The Academies of Sciences of the countries of the Americas, in the spirit of the Global Network of Science Academies (IAP), establish an Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS. The main goals of IANAS are:

1. To cooperate in building capacities for the Academies of the region through exchange of information and experience and to aid in the creation of new Academies in those countries of the Americas desiring assistance in the establishment of a Science Academy.
2. To increase the provision of scientific advice in the decision-making processes in the Americas, with the goal of promoting prosperity and equity in the Hemisphere.
3. To assist in the building of national scientific capacities by strengthening science and technology relationships among the countries of the Americas, as a tool for societal development;

Such actions shall always be undertaken with due respect for the spheres of activity, competences and interests of the respective national Academies.

**I. Members and Organization**

**I.1** Academies of Science of the countries of the Americas – including those that comprise Social Sciences, Engineering and Health Sciences - may be members or observers of IANAS provided they represent national scientific communities through a peer selection process and play an acknowledged nationwide role. Acceptance is decided by the General Assembly.

**I.1.1** If a country or region does not have an active Academy of Sciences that is a member of IANAS, an equivalent organization may be admitted to membership.

**I.1.2** If a member Academy has not participated in IANAS or its programmes and activities for more than three consecutive years, the IANAS Co-Chairs shall consult with that academy.

**I.2** The governing bodies of IANAS are the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

**II. The General Assembly (GA)**

**II.1** The General Assembly is the triennial meeting of the members of IANAS. The Chair of the GA shall be an IANAS co-Chair who is not eligible for re-election or is not seeking re-election. The place and date of the next GA shall be decided by the General Assembly, or, failing that, by the Executive Committee. Each member Academy is invited to send to the General Assembly the President or his or her designate. Each country shall have a single vote in the General Assembly. Member Academies may designate additional, non-voting representatives.

**II.2** Other related organizations or individuals from countries lacking Academies may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be invited as IANAS observers and may attend the General Assembly.

**II.3** The General Assembly shall, in particular, make the following decisions:

- a)** Approve general IANAS policies, initiatives and programs;
- b)** Elect new member Academies, the IANAS Co-Chairs, the IANAS Executive Committee, and the Academy hosting the IANAS Secretariat;
- c)** Direct the Executive Committee to carry out specific tasks deemed necessary for achieving the objectives of IANAS; and
- d)** Amend these Statutes, the Rules of Procedure governing the work of IANAS and the rules governing other organs of the IANAS.

**II.4** The General Assembly shall adopt and may amend these Statutes with a two-thirds majority vote, abstentions not considered a vote.

**II.5** The General Assembly shall adopt or amend the Rules of Procedure by a majority vote.

**II.6** The General Assembly may delegate specific tasks or responsibilities to the IANAS Executive Committee.

**II.7** Unless explicitly otherwise provided in these Statutes or in the Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly shall decide issues by a majority vote, abstentions not considered a vote. No country may have more than one vote. A vote shall be taken by hand raising if the vote does not relate to a person or persons or by a secret ballot if the vote relates to a person or persons.

**II.8** The General Assembly will be held every three years.

**II.9** Travel and living expenses of Academy representatives at General Assemblies are the responsibility of the individual Academies. The host Academy and other Academies in a position to do so will, however, try to provide assistance where appropriate.

### **III. The Executive Committee (EC)**

**III.1a** The Executive Committee will ensure the continuity between two successive meetings of the General Assembly (GA), implement the recommendations of the previous GA, prepare the program of the next GA, and represent IANAS through its Co-Chairs or one of its members during the time between two General Assemblies.

**III.1b** The Executive Committee is in charge of the relations of IANAS with international institutions.

**III.1c** The Executive Committee should follow general guidance from the previous General Assembly which may be in the form of a strategic plan or specific resolutions passed by the GA. In the case of potentially contentious issues the Co-Chairs or other designated EC representatives should consult the member Academies most closely involved.

**III.1d** All the actions of the Executive Committee will be communicated to member Academies in a timely manner.

### **III.2 Composition of the Executive Committee**

**a)** Two Co-Chairs, from Academies of countries with different degrees of development.

**b)** Nine additional full members

One from the Academy that hosts the General Assembly;

One from the Academy that will host the next General Assembly;  
Five elected member Academies from countries not represented by the countries of the Co-Chairs;

At each EC meeting the Co-Chairs will invite by rotation two member Academies not elected to the EC to attend as non-voting observers.

No country can have more than one vote on the Executive Committee.

The lead host Academy for the secretariat will be designated as an observer invited to participate in EC meetings.

**III.3** The Co-Chairs of IANAS shall be elected as named individuals, though s/he will need to be a member of an Academy that is a member of IANAS and that is willing to meet his/her IANAS related expenses.

**III.4** The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominations and Elections Committee to consult with member Academies about possible candidates for Co-Chairs, not less than six months before the completion of the term of the existing Co-Chairs. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall propose two or more names to the membership for election at the General Assembly. A simple majority of the voting members of IANAS shall determine the outcome.

**III.4.1** The Executive Committee shall decide issues by a majority of votes, abstentions not considered a vote. During meetings a vote shall be taken by hand raising if the vote does not relate to a person or persons or by a secret ballot if the vote relates to a person or persons. Between meetings a vote shall be taken by an electronic ballot with the individual votes of a member to be kept confidential if the vote relates to a person or persons.

**III.5** The Co-Chairs will serve a term of approximately three years, starting with her/his election at a General Assembly and ending with the election of new co-Chairs at the next General Assembly. For the purpose of ensuring continuity only one Co-Chair may be eligible for re-election. A Co-chair may serve at most two consecutive terms.

**III.5.1** In the event a Co-Chair withdraws or becomes incapacitated the Executive Committee will appoint from among its elected members a temporary Co-Chair to serve until the next General Assembly.

**III.6** The Co-Chairs may invite individuals to work with the Executive Committee on a particular issue. Such individuals shall have no voting rights in IANAS Executive Committee meetings.

**III.7** Other than the Co-Chairs, all members of the Executive Committee are Academy representatives rather than named individuals. The member Academies may choose their representative to the Executive Committee, but should try to ensure continuity of representation, in order to facilitate the efficient working of the Executive Committee.

**III.8** The five elected member Academies shall stand down at each General Assembly. At least one of the elected member Academies shall change at each election. The maximum continuous service of an elected full member of the Executive Committee shall be two continuous periods, after which that member shall be ineligible for election for the next three years.

**III.9** The newly elected Executive Committee will meet just after the General

Assembly in order to implement recommendations of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per year between General Assembly meetings.

#### **IV. The Secretariat**

**IV.1** Under the guidance of the IANAS Co-Chairs the IANAS Secretariat shall support the General Assembly and the Executive Committee in the discharge of their respective tasks and responsibilities.

**IV.2** The Secretariat shall, in particular, be responsible for:

- .1 Preparing and organizing all official IANAS meetings;
- .2 Disseminating relevant materials to member academies;
- .3 Preparing an Annual Report on IANAS programmes and activities;
- .4 Maintaining working relations with other relevant organizations;
- .5 Receiving and disbursing the funds of the IANAS; and
- .6 Preparing reports and audits on the finances of the IANAS.

**IV.3** The IANAS Secretariat shall be hosted by an IANAS member Academy elected by the General Assembly for a term of at least two continuous periods.

**IV 3.1** For reasons of economy and efficiency the functions of the Secretariat may be divided between two or more Academies, but one Academy shall be deemed the lead Academy responsible for receiving and disbursing funds.

**IV.3.2** The term of the lead host Academy shall be renewed unless in its previous meeting the General Assembly served notice of its intention to elect another host Academy.

**IV.3.3** If the lead host Academy wishes to terminate its role as host Academy, it shall notify the Executive Committee in writing of that intention at least one year before the date of actually ending its role as host Academy.

**IV.4** The Executive Committee may adopt rules and regulations governing the tasks and responsibilities of the Secretariat.

**V. Budget and Finance V.1** The Co-Chairs shall present a financial report at each General Assembly.

#### **VI. The Information Function**

**VI.1** A major function of IANAS is to promote and reinforce the activities of the Academies of the region through exchange of information and experiences. One main way in which this is done is through exchange of information about IANAS itself and about its members. Such exchange may be accomplished by whatever means are appropriate, taking account of advances in technology and other sources of information already easily available, and shall be the responsibility of the Co-Chairs. They shall also arrange for and maintain an IANAS website with news about IANAS and direct links to the websites of members.

#### **VII. Programs and Initiatives**

Programs and Initiatives are an integral part of meeting the capacity building objectives of IANAS. Programs and initiatives will focus on key issues for the Americas and will promote participation of the members.

Proposals from members of IANAS to the Executive Committee will be considered on an annual basis. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to determine the feasibility of the program or initiative, as well as to organize its implementation.

**VII.1** Programs and initiatives will be coordinated by Co-Chairs who will be designated by the Executive Committee. Coordinators will submit an annual progress report to the Executive Committee describing the activity undertaken.

**VII.2** The Executive Committee should periodically evaluate potential or on-going activities of IANAS to see if they have a sufficiently broad interest amongst Academies so that they could become an IANAS program.

**VII.2.1** IANAS programs will be organized and implemented by a committee of focal points from each IANAS academy and two co-chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be proposed to the IANAS Executive Committee by the focal points.

**VII.3** The two Co-Chairs of a program should be proposed to the Executive Committee by the focal points for approval. The Co-Chairs should be appointed for a three-year term to coincide with IANAS General Assemblies. If or when a Co-Chair resigns he/she and the Program Committee should propose a new chairperson to the Executive Committee.

**VII.4** Upon completion or resignation, a chairperson should submit a progress report about the program or initiative. The Executive Committee will provide a copy of the report to the newly designated person.

**VII.5** IANAS programs should be evaluated on a three-year basis by the Executive Committee or a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee before the General Assembly in order to assess that they are effective and consistent with IANAS objectives.