

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Standing Orders

(As amended by the Executive Council on 2 April 2002)

1. The Agenda for each Conference shall be fixed by the Executive Council or the Full Council and no subject which is not on the Agenda shall be added to the Agenda or discussed at the Conference except by leave of the Executive Council or the Full Council.
2. For each Conference there shall be a Steering Committee appointed by the Executive Council or the Full Council. The Steering Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Executive Council and not more than four other members, chosen with due regard to the membership of the Association. The President and the immediate past President of the Association, the Director of Studies and the Secretary-General shall, in addition, be *ex officio* members of the Steering Committee.
3. The Steering Committee shall determine the matters which may be discussed at any working session and shall *inter alia* give consideration to
 - (a) the documents to be considered at any working session;
 - (b) the resolutions (if any) to be considered at any working session;
 - (c) the procedure and time-table of any working session;and shall give such directives for the conduct of any working session as it deems necessary including, if required, limitations on the lengths of speeches.
4. The Chairmen of working sessions shall be appointed by the Executive Council or the Full Council. The Executive Council or Full Council may delegate its power under this clause to the Steering Committee. Any vacancy or failure of appointment shall be filled by the Steering Committee. The Chairman or Rapporteur of an International Committee shall not be appointed as Chairman of the working session. The chairman of the working session shall also normally not be a member of that International Committee.
5. Subject to any decision or directive by the Steering Committee, a working session may consider
 - (a) any resolution proposed by a Chairman or Rapporteur of an International Committee which is contained in any printed report before the Conference;
 - (b) any resolution relevant to the matters contained in any such printed report provided that the text of the resolution has been made available to members before the working session or is, with the permission of the Chairman of the working session, made available during the session;
 - (c) any amendments proposed to any such resolution as is mentioned in (a) or (b); and

(d) such other matters as may be decided by the Chairman of the working session.

No resolution under (b) or amendment under (c) may be discussed or considered unless and until it has been handed in writing to the Chairman of the working session. The Chairman shall rule as to its admissibility, and his ruling shall be final, subject to appeal to the Steering Committee.

6. Any proposed resolution or motion for consideration by a plenary meeting of the Conference or by a working session, other than as mentioned in paragraph 5, shall be referred to the Steering Committee which shall have full power to decide how such proposed resolution shall be processed. The Steering Committee may refer the proposal to an existing committee, or a special committee, or may refer it for consideration to the Executive Council or the Full Council, or may treat it as inadmissible if the Steering Committee is of the opinion that it is inappropriate for consideration by the Association.
7. The proceedings at any working session and any motions or resolutions adopted thereat shall be reported in writing without delay to the Steering Committee by the Chairman of the session. The Steering Committee shall have power, in consultation, if practicable, with the Chairman of the session, to settle the form of any resolution or motion prior to submission to the final session. The Steering Committee may, if it thinks fit, refer any resolution or motion or any part of a resolution or motion not to the final session but to the Executive Council or the Full Council.
8. When the terms of a resolution which has been approved by the Steering Committee following a working session are put to the final session, the Chairman of the working session or his delegate may be invited to summarise any discussion that has taken place relating to the terms of the resolution. The resolution may be adopted by consensus, or, at the discretion of the Chairman of the final session, by a majority vote, or rejected. Under no circumstances will any substantive discussion on the terms of the resolution be permitted at the final session nor will any amendments be considered.
9. Subject to any decision made by the Executive Council, the Full Council or the Steering Committee, discussions at the Conferences shall be conducted in English or French. The Chairman at any meeting may, in his discretion, permit a summary verbal translation to be made of any speech and may direct translation of any proposed resolution or motion into the other language.
10. No person, other than a member of the Association, may address the Conference or any working session except upon the invitation of the Executive Council or the Full Council. The Executive Council or the Full Council may delegate its power under this clause to an officer or officers of the Association.
11. Discussion of political issues as such at plenary meetings of the Conference or at working sessions is strictly out of order.