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STATUTES

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WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION
MONDIALE DE LA ROUTE
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ARTICLE I. AIMS

I.1

The World Road Association -**PIARC**- (referred to as "the Association") exists to improve international co-operation and to foster progress in the field of roads and road transport by:

a) being a leading international forum for analysis and discussion of the full spectrum of related issues including: roads policy; the management, finance and economics of roads; integration with other transport modes; technology; safety and the environment;

b) identifying and disseminating best practice and facilitating access to international data, in order to bring about improved decision making based on technically sound and impartial technical information;

c) providing support for developing countries and countries in transition.

The Association is continuing the work initiated by the first international Road Congress, held in Paris in October 1908, and continued in subsequent Congresses.

I.2

The particular aims of the Association are:

a) to provide a quality service designed to meet the needs of its members, decision makers and the international road community;

b) to be a leader in international co-operation and technology transfer;

c) to develop an institutional, interdisciplinary and intermodal approach which aims to break down international and organisational barriers;

d) to be objective and impartial;

e) to develop effective ways of expressing the needs of member countries regarding road and road transport issues and to develop appropriate responses, with special emphasis on developing countries and countries in transition;

f) to address road transport issues in the context of environmental protection, safety, the integration of different transport modes and social issues;

g) to propose, examine and support the adoption of international agreements on all matters concerning the improvement of roads and road transport throughout the world for the benefit of travellers and passenger and freight transport operators;

h) to encourage the pursuit of research into road and road transport issues and the open and prompt exchange of the results of this research between all countries.

I.3

To achieve its aims, the Association may employ means such as:

a) setting up Technical Committees to carry out studies and to examine and report on individual questions of international significance within the sphere of interest of the Association;

b) publishing a periodical magazine and other documents relating to the aims and activities of the Association;

c) organising and conducting World Road Congresses and International Winter Road Congresses;

d) setting up National Committees and encouraging and supporting national road associations;

e) encouraging and supporting international regional road associations in organising and conducting regional and international road seminars and conferences;

f) seeking to share roles and co-operate closely with other international organisations;

g) collecting and disseminating research, information and practice concerning roads, road transport, the use and management of road systems, the needs of road users and the impact of roads and transport on society and the environment.

ARTICLE II. CENTRAL OFFICE

The Central Office of the Association is in Puteaux, France.

ARTICLE III. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the Association are French and English.

Other languages can be used as official languages for specific activities of the Association such as congresses, meetings of the council of the Association (referred to as the "Council"), conferences, seminars, website, etc.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Association comprises several categories of members, namely:

IV.1 National governments, i.e. national governments which, having officially stated their intention of becoming members and having been admitted to membership, pay the prescribed annual subscription or make such other suitable contribution to the Association.

IV.2 Regional authorities, i.e. regional authorities at the highest level within a national State (federal or not) which, having officially stated their intention of becoming a member, and having been admitted as members, pay the prescribed annual subscription.

IV.3 Collective members, i.e. authorities or public services of states, departments, provinces, counties, municipalities, other political sub-divisions and executive agencies, scientific and technical associations, universities, public and private sector companies, consultants, user associations, and other organisations concerned with issues relating to roads and road transport which, having applied for membership of the Association and having been admitted as members, pay the prescribed annual subscription to the Association.

IV.4 Individual members, i.e. persons with an interest in roads and road transport, who, after applying for and being admitted to membership of the Association, pay the prescribed annual subscription.

IV.5 Honorary members, i.e. persons raised to this status by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council, in recognition of outstanding services to the Association or of distinguished contributions to progress in matters relating to roads or road transport. The title of Honorary President may be conferred on a Past President. The title of Honorary Vice-President may be conferred on a Past Vice-President.

No subscription fee shall be required from honorary members.

ARTICLE V. MEMBER RIGHTS

The following membership rights are applicable only through the payment of membership fees which are up to date.

V.1 National governments

Association membership gives governments the right to:

a) appoint two or more delegates to the Council, including the First Delegate, who is the representative of the country to the Association; the rules for determining the number of delegates are specified in Article VI below;

b) nominate members to Technical Committees and other bodies;

c) receive as many copies of each edition of the Association's Magazine as they have delegates to the Council, with a minimum of five;

d) receive as many copies of all the other documents printed by the Association as they have delegates to the Council;

e) have access to the members' area of the Association's website

f) receive the Association's electronic newsletter;

g) appoint official representatives to the World Road Congress, the number of these representatives being determined according to the amount of the government subscription or other voluntary contribution as determined by the Council. Rules concerning the exemption from paying Congress registration fees for these official representatives or application of a special rate are defined in the Internal Rules;

h) appoint up to two official representatives to the International Winter Road Congress; these official representatives will be exempted from paying a registration fee.

V.2 Regional authorities

Association membership gives regional authorities the right to:

a) nominate one member to up to three Technical Committees;

b) receive five copies of each edition of the Association's Magazine;

c) receive one copy of all the other documents printed by the Association;

d) have access to the members' area of the Association's website;

e) receive the Association's electronic newsletter;

f) appoint one official representative to the World Road Congress; this official representative will be exempted from paying a registration fee;

g) appoint one official representative to the International Winter Road Congress; this official representative will be exempted from paying a registration fee.

V.3 Collective members

Association membership gives collective members the right to:

a) receive four copies of each edition of the Association's Magazine;

b) have access at a reduced rate to other publications and productions of the Association;

c) receive one copy of the published proceedings of each Congress;

d) have access to the members' area of the Association's website;

e) receive the Association's electronic newsletter;

f) appoint to the World Road Congress as many times two representatives as their subscription fee comprises a single subscription; these representatives shall benefit from a reduced registration fee to the Congress if the relevant membership fee has been paid for at least the last three years;

g) appoint one representative to the International Winter Road Congress who will have the right to a reduced registration fee to the congress if the relevant membership fee has been paid for at least the last three years.

V.4 Individual members

Association membership gives individual members the right to:

a) receive a copy of each edition of the Association's Magazine;

b) have access at a reduced rate to other publications and productions of the Association;

c) have access to the members' area of the Association's website;

d) receive the Association's electronic newsletter;

e) benefit from a reduced registration fee to the World Road Congress and to the International Winter Road Congress if the relevant membership fee has been paid for at least the last three years;

f) receive one copy of the Congress proceedings published on the occasion of each World Road Congress and International Winter Road Congress if the relevant membership fee has been paid for at least the last four years.

V.5 Honorary members

An honorary member has the right to:

a) be member of the Council;

b) receive a copy of each edition of the Association's Magazine as well as one copy of the Congress proceedings published on the occasion of each World Road and International Winter Road Congress;

c) have access to the members' area of the Association's website;

d) receive the Association's electronic newsletter;

e) be exempted from the registration fee to the World Road and the International Winter Road Congresses.

ARTICLE VI. COUNCIL OF THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION

The overall responsibility for the Association is in the hands of the Council.

VI.1 Composition of the Council

The Council shall consist of:

a) members designated by the various member countries

b) the Immediate Past President,

c) honorary members,

d) former members of the Executive Committee who have held office for a continuous period of six years,

e) Presidents and Secretaries General of the World Road Congress and the International Winter Road Congress up until 2004, and

f) representatives of the PIARC National Committees.

VI.2 Representatives from member countries

Each member national Government shall be entitled to nominate at least two members to the Council.

Moreover, it may designate a certain number of additional members to the Council taking account of the total subscription or other contributions (including the value of the seconded staff to the PIARC General Secretariat) by the country concerned and by its nationals. The mode of calculation is determined by the Council.

No member government may appoint more than ten members. In this calculation the President of the Association and members mentioned in Article VI.1 b), c), d) e) and f) are not included.

VI.3 Representatives from PIARC National Committees

Each PIARC National Committee or organization recognized by PIARC as acting as a PIARC National Committee shall be entitled to nominate one member to the Council.

VI.4 Council Responsibilities

The Council is responsible for:

a) deciding the Statutes of the Association and proposing and ratifying changes;

b) electing the President, the three Vice-Presidents and the other members of the Executive Committee of the Association;

c) electing three internal auditors;

d) approving the appointment of the Secretary General, a selection having been made by the Executive Committee from the nominations put forward by the member national Governments;

e) determining categories of membership and deciding on the admission and expulsion of national governments;

f) appointing honorary presidents and honorary members;

g) approving the general policies of the Association and its Strategic Plan;

h) providing a forum for annual discussion among World Road Association senior executives on major and emerging road and road transport issues;

i) approving the accounts and the budget, and determining the annual rate of subscriptions due by the various categories of members and approving the rules for sharing subscription income between the Association and National Committees or equivalent organisations;

j) deciding the venue of the World Road Congress and the International Winter Road Congress from proposals based on the terms of reference defined by the Executive Committee;

k) approving the general format of the World Road Congress and the International Winter Road Congress and the protocol of agreement with the host country;

l) determining the number of official representatives of a member national government and a regional authority to the World Road Congress and the International Winter Road Congress;

m) determining rules defining the number of members that a member national Government has the right to appoint to the Council;

n) examining and approving an annual report submitted by the Executive Committee;

o) laying down the Internal Rules of the Association, which define the way the Executive Committee operates within the delegation of powers to it by the Council.

VI.5 Operation of the Council

The Council shall meet at least once a year. The Council also meets when convened by the Executive Committee or if application is made to the President of the Association by one-quarter of the members of the Council.

The decisions and elections of the Council rest on a majority vote of Council members present, or their proxies, except if otherwise stated.

For amendments to the Statutes the quorum shall be one-third of the members of the Council. In this case the decisions must be voted by a two-thirds majority of Council members present, or their proxies. If the quorum is not reached at the start of the meeting, the Council decision shall be taken by postal vote. The postal vote will provide for a one-month voting period. There is no quorum in the case of a postal vote, a two thirds majority of votes is required.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Association is administered by the Executive Committee, which operates within delegated powers from the Council, established in these Statutes.

VII.1 Composition of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

a) the President,

b) the Immediate Past President,

c) three Vice-Presidents,

d) between 13 and 22 other members and

e) one representative elected by the Conference of the National Committees.

The Executive Committee members a), c) and d) are elected by the Council every four years. A member of the Executive Committee, whose term of office is four years, cannot be re-elected more than once, except if that member is elected President of the Association, or if he/she has filled a casual vacancy for less than or equal to two years, which arose due to the departure of one of the other members.

The President and Vice-Presidents will not be eligible to serve in these positions for more than one term, except where such a member has filled a casual vacancy for less or equal to two years, which arose due to departure of the incumbent.

The representative of the National Committees can be elected for not more than two successive terms.

Honorary Presidents may attend the meetings of the Executive Committee without the right to vote.

The Officers of the Association shall consist of the President of the Association, the immediate Past President and the three Vice-Presidents.

VII.2 Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

The Council will entrust the routine business of the Association to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible to the Council and will act in accordance with policies approved by the Council.

The Executive Committee shall:

a) identify emerging road and road transport issues and develop strategies for responding to them;

b) oversee the development and revision of the Strategic Plan, including development of Strategic Themes and the appointment of Strategic Theme Coordinators;

c) establish Technical Committees within each Strategic Theme, approve their terms of reference and designate a Committee Chair;

d) establish Commissions, including the appointment of their Chairs and Vice Chairs, and appointing the members of the Commissions on the recommendations of their respective Chairs;

e) regularly monitor achievement of the Association's goals and objectives under the strategic and business plans of the Association;

f) produce an annual activity report;

g) oversee the financial management of the Association and the development of its annual budgets and present the required financial reports and budgets to the Council;

h) approve the appointment of an external professional auditor in agreement with the internal auditors for a contracted period of up to six years;

i) oversee internal and external communications initiatives, including publications policy;

j) oversee initiatives concerning developing countries and countries in transition;

k) encourage the formation of National Committees and regional committees with National Committee status representing two or more countries;

l) approve admission of National Committees or equivalent organizations and of their operating rules and modifications to these rules;

m) maintain liaison with the organising committees of the World Road Congress and the International Winter Road Congress and implement the general format of the Congresses approved by the Council;

n) maintain liaison with the organising committees of other congresses and approve the contribution of the Association;

o) support the work of the Secretary General in the delivery of the day-to-day operations of the Association;

p) decide on the admission and expulsion of regional authorities and on the membership of regional or international road associations;

q) laying down the PIARC Member Guide ("Blue Guide") of the Association, which defines the operating rules for the Association's various committees, groups and activities under the direction and oversight of the Executive Committee.

VII.3 Operation of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per year.

The Executive Committee will meet at the request of the President or at least a third of the Executive Committee.

The quorum shall be half of the members of the Executive Committee, present either physically in the same meeting place, or by communication through any means enabling members to hear each other simultaneously and to take part in the discussion. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall rest on a majority vote of members participating in the meeting.

Members of the Executive Committee unable to attend a meeting may be represented by a substitute from the same country to whom they may delegate their vote by written proxy which must be submitted to the General Secretariat prior to the meeting.

In urgent cases or if the quorum is not reached, the decisions of the Executive Committee may be taken by a majority vote of Executive Committee members by postal vote. The postal vote will provide for a two week voting period.

ARTICLE VIII. PRESIDENT

VIII.1

The role of the President is to:

a) represent the Association at the highest level;

b) chair the meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee;

c) endorse the meeting agendas of the Council and the Executive Committee;

d) be responsible for ensuring that the policies agreed by the Council and the Executive Committee are pursued;

e) represent the Association in international and regional conferences and meetings. The President may delegate this task on appropriate occasions;

f) present the Executive Committee's annual activity report to the Council.

VIII.2

The President will resolve and agree with the three Vice-Presidents the geographical zones of responsibility within which they will maintain liaison with First Delegates, the Council members, National Committees and international regional organisations.

VIII.3

Should the President be unable to fulfil any official duties, the immediate Past President shall act on behalf of the President until either the President is able to resume his/her duties or until the Council can make a new appointment.

ARTICLE IX. SECRETARY GENERAL

IX.1

The Secretary General:

a) ensures the daily management of the Association in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Executive Committee.

b) shall represent the Association in all legal and administrative matters that impact on the operations of the Association;

c) must provide assistance to the President, the Council and the Executive Committee concerning the management of the Association;

d) shall attend the Council, the Executive Committee and other important meetings of the Association;

e) shall decide on the admission and expulsion of individual and collective members when there is no National Committee managing its members.

ARTICLE X. AUDITORS

X.1

The Council shall elect three internal auditors, each coming from a different member country. These countries may provide if necessary a substitute internal auditor.

X.2

The auditors shall report annually to the Council covering the external professional auditor's assessment of the Association's accounts and the results of their own investigations.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Member national governments are encouraged to create National Committees or designate equivalent organisations to act as their National Committee.

Two or more member national governments in a world region may designate a regional international organisation, committee or association to perform the role of a National Committee jointly on their behalf.

XI.1

The National Committees and equivalent national and regional international organisations will serve the country or countries concerned by:

a) providing a national or international regional focus for the activities of the Association;

b) channelling information from the Association to a national audience;

c) channelling information on the national or regional situation to an international audience through the Association;

d) identifying and proposing to their First Delegates specialists to participate in the work of the Association's Technical Committees and supporting them;

e) holding seminars on topics related to or concerning PIARC activities in their countries or jointly with other countries in the region;

f) ensuring that national membership administration tasks are carried out for the Association. In this case, the Association will share subscription income with National Committees or equivalent organisations.

XI.2

The Association will recognise an organisation as a National Committee or equivalent organisation if the Executive Committee is satisfied that it:

a) is recognised by the relevant member national government or governments to be qualified to act as the National Committee particularly in regard to dissemination of the Association's outputs and holding of seminars;

b) has an institutional character which will allow it to have a continuous relationship with the international activities of the Association in a way that is consistent with the mission and values of the Association;

c) is active in (or has a viable plan for) channelling international information on road-related issues to its interested national organisations, collective and individual members.

ARTICLE XII. WORLD ROAD CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL WINTER ROAD CONGRESS

The Association holds a World Road Congress and an International Winter Road Congress each of which should normally take place every four years.

XII.1 Protocol of agreement

For each World Road Congress and International Winter Road Congress, a protocol agreement shall be signed by the Minister in charge of roads and road transport of the host country and the President of the Association.

XII.2 Registration Fee

Honorary members, chairpersons and secretaries of Committees who have been involved in the preparation of the Congress, the General Secretariat staff and representatives from international organisations invited by the President of the Association are exempted from the payment of registration fees.

Exemption of registration fees and special rates applying to official representatives of governments and regional authorities are defined in Article V of the Statutes and the Internal Rules.

Any other person wishing to participate in a Congress will have to pay a registration fee, the rates being approved by the Council. There will be:

- a reduced rate for representatives of collective members and individual members.
- a normal rate for others.

ARTICLE XIII. ASSOCIATION FUNDS

The funds of the Association consist of:

a) the subscriptions or other contributions mentioned in Article IV;

b) that part of the registration fees as specified in Article XII, which is due to the Association;

c) any other donations and benefactions made to the Association;

d) monies earned by contracts with other organisations;

e) subscription fees for the Association's Magazine, receipts from the sales of the Association's outputs;

f) monies derived from investment of its assets.

ARTICLE XIV. FISCAL YEAR

The financial year shall begin on 1 January.

ARTICLE XV. DISSOLUTION

The Association can be dissolved only by the Council meeting specially convened for the purpose, with the notice of such meeting sent at least three months prior to the date of the meeting.

The decision of the dissolution must rest on a majority vote of Council members present, or their proxies.

In case of dissolution, the Council shall be responsible for winding up the Association’s affairs.

The Council shall ensure that the assets of the Association are applied to philanthropic or technical activities connected with roads and road transport.