Statutes of the International Council of Ophthalmology

PREAMBLE

The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) arises from the International Congress of Ophthalmology and the former International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies. The ICO is the forum through which the educational and practical requirements of ophthalmologists, the national societies of ophthalmology, and the separate specialist ophthalmic societies can be represented internationally. These statutes reflect the intention of the ICO to adjust its structure and to advance its aim. These statutes were adopted by the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies in New Delhi (on the 3rd of December 1962) and modified by this organization in Paris on the 18th of May 1974, in San Francisco on the 4th of November 1982, in Amsterdam on 23rd of June 1998, in Sydney April 22, 2002, in New Orleans, 23 October 2004, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 21 February 2006, in Hong Kong, China; 27 June 2008, in Berlin, Germany, 05 June 2010, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 16 February 2012, in Tokyo, Japan, 02 April 2014, in Barcelona, Spain, 15 June 2018.

ARTICLE 1
Constitution
The International Council of Ophthalmology (hereinafter called the "ICO") is an association constituted in conformity with Article 60 and onwards of the Swiss Civil Code and may be registered in the Commercial Register of Zurich, Switzerland.

ARTICLE 2
Aim
The aim of the ICO is to promote the science of ophthalmology among all peoples and nations, and in furtherance of this to ensure permanent cooperation between representative Ophthalmological Societies of different countries and the various international bodies concerned with the organization of educational, scientific and cultural matters. For these purposes the ICO shall elect certain Members to the Board of Trustees of the ICO (hereinafter called the "Board"). The officers shall form the executive committee ("Vorstand") in the sense of the Swiss Civil Code.

ARTICLE 3
Domicile
The ICO has its registered domicile in Zurich, Switzerland. The duration of the ICO is unlimited.

ARTICLE 4
Membership
An Ophthalmological society recognized as of good standing shall be entitled to join the ICO as an affiliated society subject to the approval of the Board provided it has paid its due subscription.
ARTICLE 5
Delegates
Each society joining the ICO shall appoint one of its Members as delegate who shall hold office during the interim between one World Ophthalmology Congress® (hereinafter called the "WOC") and the next WOC, unless a new delegate is appointed. If there is any change in the delegate, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ICO should be notified immediately. The name of the delegate to attend the meeting of the ICO shall be confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board immediately after appointment and at least six months before each WOC.

ARTICLE 6
General Assembly
At each WOC or at least every two (2) years, the ICO delegates shall meet with the Members of the Board to form the General Assembly. The President of the Board shall be the Chairman of the General Assembly and shall have the authority to convene the General Assembly at any time with at least thirty (30) days notice, if he or she deems it necessary. Additionally, the General Assembly shall be summoned by the President of the Board on demand of a fifth of the delegates or at least fifteen (15) delegates. The General Assembly transacts the business of the ICO not specifically assigned to any other body of the ICO and elects the elected Members of the Board. If legally required, or if a respective proposal of the Board is approved, the General Assembly shall appoint auditors for a term of two (2) years. The General Assembly has a non-transferable right to revoke the Board Members at any time. The ICO delegates and the Board Members shall have equal voting powers. The Chairman shall have a vote and be able to cast a second vote in the event of a tie.

ARTICLE 7
Responsibilities of Delegates
The further duties of a delegate shall be:
(a) To act as a liaison officer between the Board and his or her society in the interval between two WOCs.
(b) To bring to the attention of the Board and the General Assembly matters which might affect the practice of ophthalmology in their country or worldwide.
(c) To supply the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board, periodically or on request, with the names and addresses of the ophthalmologists of his or her country or taxing authority and such other matters as are required.
(d) To be responsible for collecting and forwarding, or arranging for the collecting and forwarding, of the annual subscription of his or her society to the Treasurer of the Board.

ARTICLE 8
Subscription
The subscription of each affiliated society shall be proportional to the number of its Members. The rate of subscription is decided by the General Assembly. The subscription shall remain unchanged in the years between two WOCs. Societies that are not able to pay the full subscription may request payment at a reduced rate to be determined by the Board. The annual
subscription is due in advance on the 1st of January of each year. Any affiliated society not up to date with its subscription shall, ipso facto, but without prejudice to its liability to the ICO, be suspended as an affiliated society and not be permitted to participate, through its delegate, in the activities of the ICO, unless the Board is satisfied that reason for its default is unavoidable. The liability of the ICO for its obligations is strictly limited to the assets of the ICO. Each affiliated society is not liable for the obligations of the ICO beyond its due subscription.

ARTICLE 9
Languages
The General Assembly shall be conducted in the administrative languages agreed for the particular WOC at which the meetings are held. Speakers, in making propositions or taking part in discussions, may use any language.

ARTICLE 10
Board of Trustees
The Board of Trustees shall consider and, if deemed advisable, implement recommendations of the ICO, promote international cooperation in all matters pertaining to ophthalmology, initiate and supervise arrangements for periodical WOCs and enhance education in ophthalmology and allied fields. Furthermore, the Board is authorized to manage the current business of the ICO. The Board decides whether the ICO shall be registered or not with the Commercial Register of Zurich, Switzerland. The Board shall grant signatory rights to members of the Board or third persons. Unless a contrary decision is taken each of the officers of the Board in accordance with Article 12 shall have single signatory rights.

The Board shall meet at least once in each calendar year. The President of the Board shall have the authority to convene the Board for a meeting at any time with at least thirty (30) days’ notice, if he or she deems it necessary. The dates and the site of the Board meetings are fixed by the President of the Board in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board. In the year of a WOC, the Board shall meet at the WOC.

ARTICLE 11
Members of the Board
The Board shall consist of:
1. The Officers (who form the Vorstand)
2. Ex-officio members
3. Elected members
4. Honorary Life members

ARTICLE 12
Election of Officers of the Board of Trustees, who form the Vorstand
The Officers, i.e. the President, two Vice-Presidents, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Treasurer for each new Board shall be elected (or re-elected) by the Board. The Officers need not be chosen from the delegates of the ICO or the members of the Board. These Officers form the Vorstand in the sense of the Swiss Civil Code.

ARTICLE 13
Nomination of Elected Members of the Board of Trustees
It shall be the duty of the Board to present nominations for election as elected members of the Board to the General Assembly; these will be voted upon together with any other nomination proposed by the delegates of the ICO.

ARTICLE 14
Election of Elected Members of the Board / Filling of Vacancies
The General Assembly elects at each WOC the elected members of the Board. The number of the elected members shall be fixed by the Board. Any vacancy in any position on the Board occurring in the intervening years between two General Assemblies shall be filled by the Board, the appointment of elected members being held temporarily until the next General Assembly.

ARTICLE 15
Languages
The Board meetings shall be conducted in such languages as appear necessary to the President for the convenience of members of the Board. Speakers, in making propositions or taking part in discussions, may use any language.

ARTICLE 16
Action Between Meetings
The President in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall have the power to decide the business that may be transacted by correspondence, telecommunication, or electronic means including email between meetings of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 17
Minutes of Meetings
The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board shall supply each delegate of the ICO and each member of the Board with the minutes of the meetings of the Board and of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 18
Regulations of the Board of Trustees
The Board organization (including the determination of ex-officio members, the voting rights of ex-officio members and honorary life members and the fixing of the maximum number of voting members and the fixing of maximum terms of office) and arrangements (including procedural rules for written resolutions) are set forth in the “Regulations of the Board of
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Trustees of the International Council of Ophthalmology”, as enacted from time to time by the Board.

ARTICLE 19
Regulations of the WOC
The WOC organization and arrangements are set forth in the “Regulations of the World Ophthalmology Congress®” known as the International Congress of Ophthalmology since 1857, as enacted from time to time by the Board.

ARTICLE 20
Regulations of the Awards
Awards presented with the participation of the Board of Trustees are set forth in the “Regulations of the Awards”, as enacted from time to time by the Board.

ARTICLE 21
Liability of Board of Trustees and ICO Delegates
Except for their own wrongful acts or omissions in violation of their statutory powers or of legal provisions, the Board Members, ICO delegates or their agents are not liable for the obligations of the ICO.

ARTICLE 22
Amendments and Additions
Amendments and additions to these Statutes shall be valid only if they are recommended at least three (3) months in advance by the Board (a majority of two thirds (2/3) being necessary) or by a fifth of the delegates or at least fifteen (15) delegates of the ICO whose appointments have been confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board as in ARTICLE 5, and if they are accepted by a majority of two thirds (2/3) at the General Assembly. Such amendments shall be distributed two (2) months in advance to Members of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 23
Dissolution
The dissolution of the ICO can be effected only if this is recommended at least six months in advance by the Board of Trustees (a majority of two thirds (2/3) being necessary) or a fifth of the delegates or at least fifteen (15) delegates of the ICO whose appointments have been confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board as in ARTICLE 5, and if dissolution is accepted by a majority of two thirds (2/3) at the General Assembly. Such dissolution shall be distributed five (5) months in advance to the Members of the General Assembly.

In the event of dissolution the assets of the ICO shall be vested in a project or projects of public interest the aims of which conform with those of the ICO.

Approved by the Council, 10 May 2005, Florence
Adopted by IFOS, 21 February 2006, Sao Paulo
ICO Statutes, Approved 15 June 2018

Approved by the Council, 23 March 2007, Cape Town
Approved by the Council by email ballot, 26 March 2008
Adopted by IFOS, 27 June 2008, Hong Kong
Approved by the Board of Trustees, 23 October 2009, San Francisco
Revised by the Board of Trustees, 02 April 2010 by Mail Ballot
Adopted by the Council, 05 June 2010, Berlin
Approved by the General Assembly on 16 February 2012, Abu Dhabi
Revised by the Board of Trustees, 01 January 2014 by Mail Ballot
Adopted by General Assembly, 02 April 2014, Tokyo
Revised by the Board of Trustees, 15 March 2018 by Mail Ballot
Adopted by General Assembly, 15 June 2018, Barcelona