

**BYLAWS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WATER LAW
(AIDA)**

I. Membership

A. The Association shall recognize three categories of members:

i. **Regular Member:**

1. Any individual who fulfils the qualifications of Regular Member, desires to further the objectives of the Association, is willing to comply with its Articles of Association and Bylaws, and is admitted by the Executive Council under the sponsorship of a Regular Member in good standing.
2. Qualifications for Regular Membership may include:
 - a. Holding an LL.B. or JD degree or their equivalent; *and/or*
 - b. Engaging in a professional position in which the candidate provides advice, analysis, training, or education on the legal aspects of the administration, management, conservation, or use of water resources; *and/or*
 - c. Engaging in a professional position in which the candidate conducts research and publishes on the legal aspects of the administration, management, conservation, or use of water resources; *and/or*
 - d. Evidencing strong interest in developing a career in which the candidate would provide legal advice, analysis, training, or education, or conduct research or publish, on the legal aspects of the administration, management, conservation, or use of water resources.

ii. **Institutional Member:** Any corporate, governmental, non-governmental, or other legal entity that:

1. Desires to further the objectives of the Association and is willing to comply with its Articles of Association and Bylaws, and which is admitted to by the Executive Council under the sponsorship of a Regular Member in good standing; and
2. Provides legal advice, analysis, training, or education, or conducts research or publishes, on the legal aspects of the administration, management, conservation, or use of water resources.

Institutional Members shall not be eligible to serve on the Executive Council, have voting rights in the Association, or lead an Association task force or committee in their institutional capacity.

iii. **Student Member:** Any individual who is a student engaged in full-time university study toward the primary legal degree (s.a., LL.B., JD, or their equivalent), desires to further the objectives of the Association, is willing to comply with its Articles of Association and Bylaws, and is admitted

by the Executive Council under the sponsorship of a Regular Member in good standing. Student Members shall not be eligible to serve on the Executive Council, have voting rights in the Association, or lead an Association task force or committee.

- B. Application for membership must include sufficient evidence to comply with basic membership requirements and qualifications as provided in the Association's Articles of Association and Bylaws.
- C. The Executive Council may impose the same or different dues obligations for different membership types, including free memberships with reduced benefits or obligations, on an annual basis or for multiple years in advance, that it deems reasonable and necessary to ensure the viability of the Association. At the request of a member from a specific developing country or a country experiencing economic crisis or conflict, the Executive Council may waive the duty to pay the annual dues for one year.
- D. Association Membership shall be deemed in "good standing" where a Regular Member or Institutional Member is current with all dues obligations to the Association, and is not engaging in activity contrary to the interests of the Association. A member's "good standing" shall be determined by the Executive Council.
- E. Benefits
 - i. Regular Members in good standing shall be entitled to various benefits as provided for in the Articles of Association and Bylaws, and as determined by the Executive Council, including, but not limited to: vote on Association matters; serve on the Executive Council; lead and participate on Association task forces and committees; propose and/or lead Association projects, webinars, conferences, and other activities; receive free access to the Association's newsletters, *AquaForum*; and attend closed Association meetings.
 - ii. Institutional Members in good standing shall be accorded various benefits as determined by the Executive Council, including, but not limited to: recognition as an Institutional Member in appropriate Association literature, on the Association's website, and through the Association's social media; designation of up to five individuals from within their organization who shall be regarded as Regular Members for the period that the Institutional Member maintains its membership in good standing.
 - iii. Student Members in good standing shall be entitled to all benefits provided to Regular Members with the exception of: vote on Association matters; serve on the Executive Council; lead Association task forces and committees; and attend closed Association meetings.

- F. Membership in the Association may be terminated by the Executive Council under the following circumstances:
- i. Resignation; or
 - ii. Non-payment of dues for at least two year; or
 - iii. Behaviour contrary to the interests of the Association.

II. General Assembly

- A. The Association shall hold a General Assembly of the membership whenever feasible, including online. The place and time for each General Assembly shall be designated by the Executive Council. The General Assembly shall be for the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting.
- B. One-quarter of Regular Members in good standing who are present in person, online, or represented by proxy at a General Assembly meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Association business.
- C. Except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Association or Bylaws, a simple majority of the votes cast by the Regular Members—by means approved and announced at least 30 days in advance by the Executive Council (s.a., in person, by electronic means, or represented by proxy)—at a General Assembly at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter voted upon by the members.

III. Executive Council

- A. The Association shall be led, managed and directed by an elected Executive Council in accordance with the Articles of Association and Bylaws of the Association. The Executive Council shall consist of the following positions:

i. Executive Chair

1. Obligations: serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Council; be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Association; administer and dispose of the assets of the Association; accept grants on behalf of the Association; ensure that decisions of the Council are implemented; represent the Association before third parties; and delegate such functions to any Association member.
2. Eligibility: any Regular Member in good standing who holds a primary legal degree (s.a., LL.B., JD, or their equivalent) and is willing to undertake the obligations identified for this position.

ii. Deputy Chair

1. Obligations: assist the Executive Chair in fulfilling their obligations; stand in the place of the Executive Chair during their absence; maintain records of all Association meetings, decisions, activities, and archives; oversee all standing and ad hoc task forces and committees established by the Council; be responsible for overseeing all elections, election processes, and voting procedures in and of the Association; and perform such other

duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Executive Chair and the Council.

2. Eligibility: any Regular Member in good standing who is willing to undertake the obligations identified for this position.

iii. Treasurer

1. Obligations: manage and safeguard the finances and accounts of the Association; oversee collection and management of all dues, fees, and other monies paid to the Association; expend the funds of the Association in concurrence with at least one other member of the Executive Council as designated by the Executive Chair; make recommendations to the Executive Chair and the Executive Council on the financial affairs of the Association; maintain all Association memberships and registrations with other entities and governmental agencies; prepare for the Association an annual, calendar year statement of all Association accounts, revenues, and expenditures no later than 31 January of the following calendar year; and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Executive Chair and the Executive Council.
2. Eligibility: any Regular Member in good standing who is willing to undertake the obligations identified for this position.

iv. Publication Chair

1. Obligations: oversee production and publication of the Association's Newsletter, *AquaForum*; oversee production and publication of other Association publications; oversee the Association's website and social media; and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Executive Chair and the Executive Council.
2. Eligibility: any Regular Member in good standing who is willing to undertake the obligations identified for this position.

v. Projects Chair

1. Obligations: oversee the organization and management of Association General Assemblies, projects, online and in-person events, collaborations with other entities, and other activities; and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Executive Chair and the Executive Council.
2. Eligibility: any Regular Member in good standing who is willing to undertake the obligations identified for this position.

- B. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one vote in all decisions of the Executive Council. Except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Association and Bylaws, Executive Council decisions are valid when they are approved by a majority of the Executive Council. Voting is permitted in person, via proxy, by email, and by any other electronic means accepted by the Executive Council.

- C. The terms of the members of the Executive Council shall be six (6) years. Executive Council members may hold no more than one Executive Council position at any time, and may serve no more than two full terms in each Executive Council position. A full term refers to a period of time that is longer than 3 years up to 6 years.
- D. Selection of the Executive Council
- i. Elections for the Executive Council shall be conducted by secret ballot through email, electronic vote, or any other means that provides Regular Members a meaningful opportunity to participate in the election process.
 - ii. Candidates for a position on the Executive Council may be nominated and run for only one position.
 - iii. The members of the Executive Council must be elected by at least a simple majority of the votes cast where there are two candidates running for the same position, or a plurality of the votes where there are more than two candidates running for the same position, where at least a simple majority of the members of the Association who are in good standing cast a ballot.
 - iv. Elections shall be staggered and held every three years. The Deputy Chair, Treasurer, and Projects Chair shall be elected in the first six-year cycle; the Executive Chair and Publications Chair shall be elected in the second six-year cycle, which shall begin at the start of the fourth year following the first six-year cycle. The first six-year cycle shall begin 1st July 2023.
 - v. Nominations and Elections
 1. The Executive Council shall appoint an ad hoc Election Committee, including its chair, consisting of at least three Regular Members in good standing who shall oversee the nomination and election process.
 2. No member of the Election Committee may run for a position on the Executive Council while serving on the Election Committee, nor may they be appointed to a position on the Executive Council during the term immediately following their service on the Election Committee.
 3. The period during which nomination for the Executive Council can be accepted shall be no less than 30 days. All Regular Members in good standing may self-nominate or may nominate others for open positions on the Executive Council.
 4. The Election Committee shall receive all candidatures for Executive Council positions at least 60 days prior to the first day of the election. The Election Committee shall review eligibility of all candidates per the Articles of Association and Bylaws, and confirm that the candidates are willing to serve if elected. The deliberations of the Election Committee shall be confidential.
 5. After the Election Committee concludes its review process, it shall submit a report to the Executive Council containing the list

- of nominees at least 45 days before the first day of the elections.
6. The Election Committee shall count all ballots submitted within the designated election period and shall determine the winners for each Executive Council position.
 - vi. The list of candidates for all Executive Council positions shall be disseminated by the Executive Council to the Association membership via any means authorized under Article IV.A. of these Bylaws, and on the Association's website, at least 30 days before the first day of the elections.
 - vii. The election period will remain open for a minimum of 30 days. Elections for the Executive Council shall be conducted by secret ballot and may be submitted in person or via electronic or online voting mechanisms, including email, as determined by the Executive Council.
- E. Membership on the Executive Council may be terminated by a majority vote of the Executive Council under the following circumstances:
- i. resignation;
 - ii. nonpayment of dues for more than one year;
 - iii. inability or failure to perform requisite duties.
- F. Where a vacancy on the Executive Council occurs during a term, the remaining Executive Council may appoint another Executive Council member or Regular Member to that office for the remainder of the term by a majority vote. Where there is no candidate for a particular office on the Executive Council during an election, following the start of the new term, the remaining Executive Council may appoint another Executive Council member or Regular Member to that office by a majority vote. The appointee must meet the eligibility requirements provided for in Article III.A. Where a vacancy is filled through an Executive Council vote, if the remaining term of the vacancy exceeds three years, it shall be counted as a full term for purposes of Section III.C. of these Bylaws.

IV. Miscellaneous

- A. The Association and Executive Council may communicate with the membership by any means, including through the use of technology, that provides a meaningful opportunity for Association members to obtain the communicated information in a timely and complete manner. Communication may also occur through the use of the Association's official website, publication in Association newsletters, or other means.
- B. The Association's official newsletter shall be known as *AquaForum* and shall be made available to all Regular and Student Members in good standing. The Executive Council shall appoint an Editor-in-Chief for *AquaForum*, who shall be any Regular Member in good standing who holds a primary legal degree (s.a., LL.B., JD, or their equivalent), who may not serve simultaneously on the Executive Council, and who is willing to serve in such capacity. The duration of such appointments shall be at the discretion of the Executive Council.

- C. The Executive Council may establish institutional relationships between the Association and other organizations.
- D. The Executive Council, may, when it deems appropriate, appoint a Deputy Treasurer to assist the Treasurer in carrying out the obligations identified in Art. III.A.iii and as assigned by the Treasurer and the Executive Chair.
- E. The Executive Council may establish ad hoc task forces and committees to: undertake particular Association projects or activities; address specific legal aspects of the administration, management, conservation, or use of water resources; engage particular constituencies; or promote any Association interest or activity. The duration of all ad hoc task forces and committees shall be three years, after which their mandate may be renewed or terminated by the Executive Council. Task forces and committees may only be chaired by a Regular Member in good standing.
- F. The Executive Council may establish mechanisms and awards to recognize members of the Association who provide extraordinary service to the Association, as well as members and non-members of the Association who make a significant contribution to the field or water law.
- G. The Bylaws may be amended:
 - i. By the Executive Council by simple majority; or
 - ii. By the membership at a General Assembly in accordance with Article II of these Bylaws; or
 - iii. By the membership through an electronic vote called by the Executive Council, at its discretion, where at least a simple majority of Regular Members in good standing participate in the electronic vote and where the amendment is carried by a simple majority of those votes.

Last amended on 13 November 2022