



## **UNIMA STATUTES**

**APPROVED AT THE HYBRID CONGRESS IN CHUNCHEON ON MAY, 2025**

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### **PREAMBLE**

UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionnette) is an international non-governmental organization that brings together people from all over the world. These individuals contribute to the development of the art of puppetry through national centers and commissions, using this art to serve human values such as mutual understanding and dialogue between peoples, regardless of their origins, political or religious beliefs, or cultural diversity. As an official partner of UNESCO, UNIMA upholds the values of this organization, particularly the promotion of peace in the minds of human beings. It is committed to promoting cultural diversity, in accordance with the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which it has ratified, as well as social health and emotional well-being. UNIMA promotes these principles in compliance with the respect for the fundamental rights of human beings, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

### **§1 - AIMS AND MEANS**

The aim of UNIMA is to promote the art of puppetry. This aim can be achieved in the following ways:

- 1) By encouraging contacts and exchanges between puppeteers from all nations and continents, using all possible means of communication
- 2) By organizing congresses, conferences, festivals, exhibitions and competitions, or by providing support and endorsement



- 3) By assisting its members in guaranteeing their democratic interests, trade union rights, financial and legal issues and gender non-discrimination in the course of their professional activities; In particular by making recommendations or submitting proposals to the competent bodies
- 4) By encouraging vocational training
- 5) By deepening historical, theoretical and scientific research
- 6) By keeping alive traditions, as well as encouraging the renewal of puppetry
- 7) By proposing puppetry as a means of ethical and aesthetic education
- 8) By participating in the work of international organizations with similar aims
- 9) By promoting an art of puppetry concerned with respect for the environment and use of resources that positively affect climate change.

## **§2 - UNIMA MEMBERSHIP**

2.1) Any person interested in the art of puppetry can be an UNIMA member

2.2) UNIMA membership can be individual or collective. Members registered as part of a collective are known as associate members.

2.3) It is an UNIMA National Center that receives memberships. In Countries without a National Center, memberships are received directly by the General Secretary.

2.4) A National Center receives membership applications from people and organizations of its own nationality or from people and/or organizations with permanent residence in the country. If, for personal, cultural, political or any other kind of reason, a person or an organization asks to become a member of a National Center that is neither the one of their nationality nor residence, they must submit their request to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall give its approval after consultation with the concerned National Center.

2.5) In the case of rejection of membership by a National Center or the General Secretary, a candidate may appeal to the Executive Committee.

2.6) Persons who have acquired exceptional merits in the development of the art of puppetry and whose work has achieved an international reputation may be named honorary members of UNIMA.

### **2. a) MEMBER'S RIGHTS**

Each UNIMA member has the right:

- 1) To receive a membership card;
- 2) To be elected in all instances of UNIMA according to the UNIMA Rules of Procedure, as long as they have paid their fees in full;
- 3) To benefit from all advantages resulting from UNIMA membership (international information, participation in international exchanges, professional assistance, scholarships, etc.;
- 4) To attend the Council and the Congress.



## 2. b) MEMBER'S DUTIES

### 2. b.1) Each member of UNIMA is required:

- 1) To apply themselves to the pursuit of UNIMA objectives
- 2) To respect the UNIMA Statutes and Rules of Procedure
- 3) To pay membership fees as fixed by their National Center or the UNIMA Congress.

### 2. b.2) Honorary members do not pay fees.

## 2. c) LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

### 2.c.1) A person or organization is no longer a member of UNIMA if:

- 1) They have been struck out or excluded because of activities no longer complying with the fundamental principles of UNIMA, or because of serious infringements of the Statutes;
- 2) They have submitted their resignation in writing;
- 3) They have not paid their membership fees for more than one year.

2.c.2) The National Center decides on the exclusion of a member, and if no National Center exists, the decision rests with the Executive Committee.

2.c.3) In the event of exclusion by a National Center, the member may appeal to the Executive Committee. In the event of exclusion by the Executive Committee, an appeal can be lodged with the Congress.

2.c.4) When a Center does not pay its membership fees for a period of two years without the permission of the Executive Committee, or if its activities no longer comply with the fundamental principles of UNIMA, it loses its rights and may be excluded from UNIMA by the Executive Committee.

## §3 - MEETINGS

All meetings of the organization (Congress, Executive Committee meetings, etc.) will allow attendance by means of any electronic communication facility, that permits all members participating in such meeting to hear each other during the meeting. An individual member, who, through such communication system attends a meeting, shall be deemed to be personally present at that meeting.

## §4 - UNIMA RULING BODIES

4.1) The ruling bodies of UNIMA are: the Congress, the Elections Committee, the Council, the Auditing Commission, the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat, the Commissions, the National Centers and the Representatives.

### 4.a) THE CONGRESS

#### 4.a.1) The Congress, the supreme body of UNIMA, consists of:

- The Councilors who have been democratically elected by the National Centers at



least nine months prior to each Congress for a four year term

- The appointed Representatives
- The ten additional Councilors elected at the beginning of the Congress
- The outgoing members of the Executive Committee
- The attending members

Any UNIMA member can attend and participate in the discussion, but only the Councilors and the outgoing members of the Executive Committee have the right to vote.

4.a.2) The Congress shall meet at least once every four years. It can take only decisions if at least one third of its registered voting members is present or represented. Decisions are taken on a simple majority base.

4.a.3) An extraordinary Congress must be convened if at least two thirds of the Council or National Centers request it.

4.a.4) A Day of Extraordinary Congress during a Council can be held, if voted in the last Congress and confirmed through a vote of the present Councilors during the current Council. It can take only decisions if at least one third of its registered voting members are present or represented. Decisions are taken on a simple majority base.

4.a.5) The Congress has the broadest powers concerning the management of the Organization.

- 1) It approves the activity report of the Executive Committee
- 2) It approves the report of the Auditing Commission
- 3) It decides on the orientation and the program of activities for the period until the next Congress
- 4) It takes note of the composition of the Council for the new term period and elects an additional ten councilors. Only one councilor can be elected per country
- 5) It approves modifications to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure
- 6) It deals with motions and proposals for resolutions which are presented
- 7) It makes decisions on complaints and appeals
- 8) It appoints the Honorary Presidents
- 9) It elects the members of the Executive Committee and of the Auditing Commission.
- 10) It elects the President, the Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary and the Treasurer from among the members of the Executive Committee
- 11) It forms the Commissions, defines their objectives and elects their Presidents
- 12) It establishes the fees for international and direct membership, except the fee for associate members.
- 13) It takes note of the reports from the National Centers, the Commissions, the Representatives and the International Groups

4.a.6) Only the National Centers and the members who have paid their fees in full have the right to be represented at the UNIMA Congress.

4.a.7) Organisation of a Congress or a Council is voluntary, and it must be accompanied by a written agreement between the organiser and the international office of UNIMA.



#### 4.b) THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

4.b.1) The Election Committee is elected two years before the Congress at the meeting of the Council.

#### 4.c) THE COUNCIL

4.c.1) The UNIMA Council consists of:

- The Councilors that have been democratically elected by the National Centers at least 9 months prior to each Congress and for a four year term
- The appointed Representatives
- The ten additional Councilors elected during the previous Congress
- The members of the Executive Committee
- The attending members

Any UNIMA member can attend and participate in the discussion, but only the Councilors and the members of the Executive Committee have the right to vote. In the event of a Councilor's death, resignation or removal, the relevant National Center is allowed to elect a new Councilor for the remainder of the term of office.

4.c.2) Each National Center is entitled to elect one Councilor; two if it has more than 50 members, three if it has more than 100 members, four if it has more than 200 members, five if it has more than 300 members, six if it has more than 400 members, which is also the maximum number of Councilors that a National Center can be entitled to.

#### 4.d) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE PRESIDENT, THE GENERAL SECRETARY, THE TREASURER, THE VICE-PRESIDENTS AND THE CABINET

4.d.1) The Executive Committee is in charge of directing UNIMA activities in the period between two Congresses.

4.d.2) The Executive Committee has the following tasks:

- 1) To implement and carry out the program of activities defined by the Congress;
- 2) To ensure compliance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
- 3) To take into consideration reports and motions submitted to it;
- 4) To set the fees for associate members;
- 5) To approve the annual budget of UNIMA and its use;
- 6) To approve the annual report by the General Secretary.

4.d.3) The President:

- 1) Represents UNIMA in all matters of law;
- 2) Presides over the Executive Committee and the Council;
- 3) Represents UNIMA in relation to other international bodies;
- 4) Is responsible for upholding the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- 5) Promotes the flow of information with the Commissions



#### 4.d.4) The General Secretary

- 1) Coordinates the activities of UNIMA
- 2) Informs the National Centers of these activities and organizes the work of the Executive Committee
- 3) Manages the staff of the General Secretariat as well as proper record-keeping as well as ensuring the overall efficiency of the General Secretariat
- 4) Together with the Treasurer, is responsible for the finances of UNIMA.

4.d.5) The Vice-Presidents shall represent and/or replace the President whenever the President is unable to assume their role. They do so in the order in which they have been elected: first, the one who received the highest number of votes, then the next in line.

4.d.6) The UNIMA Cabinet is an advisory body and consists of five representatives elected by the Congress: the President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Vice-Presidents. The task of the Cabinet is to facilitate the work of these members. It can in no way take decisions on behalf of the General Secretary or the Executive Committee.

4.d.7) If the President resigns due to any reasons, the first Vice-President takes over the role until the next Congress. If the Treasurer or the General Secretary resign due to any reason, the Executive Committee elects one of its members to take over the tasks until the next Congress.

4.d.8) If a member of the Executive Committee, including the Cabinet, harms the reputation of UNIMA or frequently violates the standards of behavior set up by the EC for their legislature, or compromises the proper functioning of the organization or undermines its values and objectives, the suspension procedure may be initiated as written in the Rules of Procedure. (RoP IV.D.16)

#### 4.e) THE AUDITING COMMISSION

4.e.1) The accounts of UNIMA are technically and legally audited by an independent professional accountant.

4.e.2) The Auditing Commission monitors the proper use of UNIMA resources in relation to the projects and ensures that the resources are spent in accordance with the objectives established by the Congress and the Executive Committee. It submits an annual report to the Executive Committee and, every fourth year, to the Congress.

4.e.3) Members of the Auditing Commission cannot be members of the Executive Committee.

4.e.4) The Auditing Commission consists of three members. It takes decisions if at least two members are present.

#### 4.f) THE COMMISSIONS

4.f.1) The Commissions are UNIMA's working groups. They are led by a president.



#### 4.g) NATIONAL CENTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

4.g.1) An UNIMA National Center may be established in two different ways:

- 1) By at least ten members (individual or collective) of a country;
- 2) By a national puppetry organization already in existence

4.g.2) Only one National Center can exist per country. The Center may be composed of regional sections.

4.g.3) A request for the establishment of a National Center must be addressed to the Executive Committee for approval, and it must state:

- 1) That the Center comprises at least ten members (individual or collective);
- 2) That the Center acknowledges and applies the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of UNIMA. In any case, a National Center must submit its Statutes and Rules of Procedure to the Executive Committee for approval.

4.g.4) Each National Center develops its work on the basis of its own Statutes. It must be in contact with the General Secretariat and must ensure that the decisions made by the international bodies of UNIMA are implemented and carried out.

4.g.5) Each National Center pays an annual fee to UNIMA, calculated according to the number of its members in the previous year.

4.g.6) The General Secretary can appoint an UNIMA Representative in a country with no National Center. The term of office of such a representative is one year. It may exceptionally be extended to two years by decision of the Executive Committee.

A Representative is first and foremost a temporary contact of UNIMA and has the following functions:

- 1) To develop links between puppeteers of their country with the aim of creating a National Center;
- 2) To maintain a permanent link with the General Secretariat.

4.g.7) Several National Centers can unite to form International Groups. The International Groups shall inform the Executive Committee, through the General Secretariat, of all their activities.

#### **§5 - OFFICIAL DESIGNATION, HEAD OFFICE AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

5.1) The official designation of the Organization is "UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionnette)".

5.2) UNIMA's head office is that of the General Secretariat.

5.3) In matters of law, UNIMA is represented by its President or, when this is not possible, by a Vice-President.



## **§6 - OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF UNIMA**

6.1) The languages adopted by UNIMA are French, German, English, Russian and Spanish, as well as the language of the country in which a Congress, a Council or an Executive Committee's meeting is held.

6.2) In case of disagreement regarding the meaning of certain parts of the Statutes or R.O.P, and/or all other eventual texts establishing rules to follow, the French version shall be deemed the sole correct and valid version.

## **§7 – FINANCES**

7.1) The financial resources of UNIMA are provided by:

- 1) Membership and associate member fees;
- 2) Donations, bequests and grants;
- 3) Miscellaneous income resulting from its activity.

7.2) The General Secretary manages the assets of UNIMA.

## **§8 - DISSOLUTION**

8.1) The decision to dissolve UNIMA is made by the Congress with a two-thirds majority.

8.2) The Congress also decides on the liquidation procedure.

Hybrid Congress Chuncheon, June 2025

President

Louise Lapointe

General Secretary

Fabrizio Montecchi

Presidents Constitution Commission

Annette Dabs-Baucks, Clément Peretjatko