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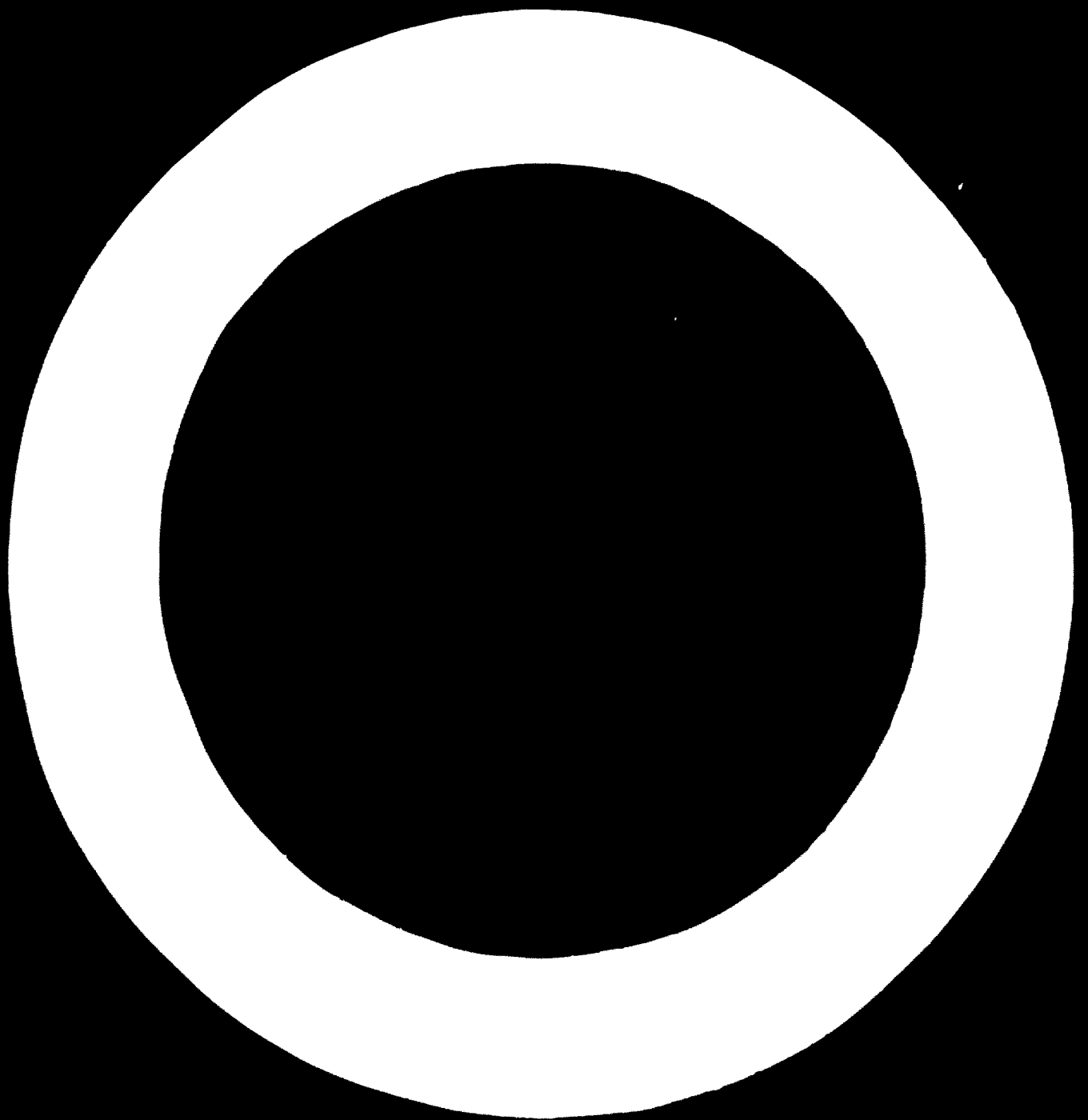
Meeting of the
Proposed World Association of Industrial
and Technological Research Organizations

Vienna, Austria, 28-30 October 1970

REPORT OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING,
26 and 27 October 1970

id.70-5979

We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.



1. At the invitation of UNIDO, 13 delegates from industrial research organizations met in the Felderhaus on 26 and 27 October 1970, to review the provisional working programme and plan of the inaugural meeting of IAIIRO. The participants were formally welcomed by the representative of UNIDO, after which he outlined the main tasks that were being referred to the Preparatory Committee Meeting for guidance and recommendations.

The Group then elected the following officers:

Chairman	Dr. Siddiqui
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Klappacher
Rapporteur	Dr. Akinrele

The Provisional Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting was briefly considered and adopted.

2. The Chairman then called on the participants to examine the documents, namely the Provisional Agenda and the Work Programme of the general meeting of IAIIRO, and invited comments. In the ensuing discussions, the following matters were dealt with.

(i) Rules of Procedure

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the need to adopt some Rules of Procedure at the opening session of the IAIIRO Meeting, pending the formal ratification of the Association's Rules of Procedure. It was agreed that the Rules of Procedure of the Industrial Development Board be recommended for use at the inaugural meeting. The section dealing with members' credentials and geographical distribution should however, not apply.

(ii) Work Programme and Budget for 1971

The Committee considered the problem of raising adequate funds to support the Secretariat and operational activities of the Association. It noted the importance of drawing up a good work programme that would attract many Institutions to become members, as well as attract donations from philanthropic and international organizations. A Working Group to do this was therefore set up comprising the following members: Dr. Bredo, Dr. Morales, Dr. Lukacs, Dr. Klappacher, Dr. Weerakoon and

Mr. Ekwaro. The proposals of this Working Group have since been reviewed by the Preparatory Committee and will be presented to the Executive Committee of WAITRO.

(iii) Relationship of WAITRO with the UN Agencies

Some members observed that many activities of WAITRO would be similar to the functions at present being carried out by UNIDO and wanted to know what relationship was envisaged between the two organizations. The Committee was informed that the UN took the view that WAITRO, in accordance with its proposed Constitution, would be an autonomous, non-governmental body, which could not be directly linked to any of the UN Agencies, nor could any of the latter organizations become members of WAITRO. However, many of WAITRO's activities would qualify for inclusion in the technical assistance programmes of many UN Agencies. The representative of UNIDO further indicated that at the initial period UNIDO would endeavour to support some items of the work projects of WAITRO.

3. The Committee also reviewed the Draft Constitution including Membership Fee, the Draft By-Laws, and the Draft Rules of Procedure, and made the following comments and recommendations to the plenary meeting of the Association.

(i) Membership

The criteria for membership of the Association as laid down in the Draft Constitution evoked considerable debate in the Committee. There was a strong feeling that organizations which are not concerned with industrial technology and/or are involved in outright commercial and profit-making operations should not be encouraged to take full membership of the Association. Another level of membership was suggested for such interested organizations. On the other hand, it was mentioned that there were many organizations who would otherwise have qualified for membership by their organizational structure but had embodied profit-making systems within their overall operations. Taking cognisance of these special cases, the Committee decided to recommend two levels of membership

namely "Inoguard" and "Associate". The Draft Constitution was therefore amended accordingly.

At the request of the Chairman, members reviewed the Provisional List of Participants to determine the status of their membership on the criteria stated in the revised Draft Constitution. This exercise enabled the Committee to clarify its thinking on the status or categories of membership. It therefore recommends that regular membership of the Association shall be open only to institutes of national and regional bodies undertaking industrial and technological research at a high level of competence. Associate membership will be made available to private, national, regional and international bodies and organizations interested in encouraging or promoting industrial research. Organizations such as the UN Agencies that cannot take up membership at either of these two levels may be admitted as observers to the General Meetings of the Association.

The evaluation of credentials for membership should be left to the Executive Committee who will rule on them by a minimum of five affirmative votes.

A proposal to give equal voting rights to all members of the Association was seen to pose the following problems:

- (a) The danger of domination of the Association by a possible large membership from one country or region either by reason of proximity to the Secretariat or being financially privileged.
- (b) The need to ensure an effective participation of developing countries who are usually financially handicapped.
- (c) The need to avoid restrictive regulations that could discourage membership from any region.

It was the consensus of opinion that this matter required a careful study and so the Preparatory Committee recommends that it be referred to the Executive Committee who should report back to the next General Assembly.

For the inaugural meeting, however, it is proposed that all participating members should enjoy full voting rights on all matters. In order to allow for a future review of this

procedure, the Committee decided that the Draft Constitution should be silent on this matter and that By-Law No. 4.04 should read, "At the General Assembly each regular member shall have one vote."

(ii) Membership Fees

The views expressed generally that the proposed membership fee of US\$100 per member from developing countries and US\$200 per member from developed countries, would not provide sufficient funds to sustain the activities of the Association. Many members expressed the view that it is necessary to request larger subscriptions from institutions of developed countries, while keeping a low fee for organizations from developing countries so as to ensure their effective participation in the Association.

For a start the Committee recommends that membership fees be increased so that members from developing countries should now pay a minimum of US\$200 per annum and those from developed countries a minimum of US\$500 per annum. In order to make it possible to review these fees from time to time, it is proposed that the Draft Constitution should be silent on this point but that the Draft By-Law 2.07 be amended to reflect these changes. The Committee also recommends that annual dues shall be paid by members within 90 days of the 1st January of each year, that new members may be accepted on the 1st of January or the 1st of July of each year, subject to the payment of their membership dues within 90 days of their formal acceptance. The feasibility of paying membership dues in local currency should be investigated.

The Committee recommends that clause 2.08 of the Draft By-Laws be amended to make it possible for the Executive Committee to suspend members who have defaulted in the payment of their annual dues for one year. Such members who will ultimately lose their seats in the General Assembly if they continue to fail to pay their dues for three consecutive years may be re-admitted to membership after they have paid up their arrears and this will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(iii) Pledges

The Committee considered the suggestion that there should be a roll call of participating members to make open pledges of their desire to take membership of the Association. It was generally felt that many delegates might not have the full mandate to make these pledges in view of the proposed changes in the membership fees. The Committee therefore recommends that participants should have the option to make conditional pledges which should be confirmed in writing subsequently, but not later than a date to be fixed

(iv) Miscellaneous Comments on the Constitution

The various comments volunteered by prospective members of the Association on the Draft Constitution earlier circulated, were taken in the order listed.

(a) Name of Association

A proposal was received that the name of the Association should be re-studied in order to differentiate between industrial research and technological research. The Committee took the view that it was important to highlight industrial technology within the framework of the activities of the Association.

It therefore considered that the present name "IAITRO" was an appropriate descriptive term, that comprehensively covers the scope of the aims and objectives of the Association.

(b) Official Languages

On the question of languages, the Committee recommends that English and French should initially be accepted as the official languages during the General Assembly Meetings, on the grounds of economy.

(c) Aims and Activities

On the aims and activities of the Association, the Committee deliberated at length on the various comments received. On the basis of the discussion, the Draft Constitution has been accordingly amended.

(d) Executive Committee

On the membership of the Executive Committee, the Preparatory Committee recommends that the number should be seven including the Chairman, and that the President of the Association should be the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee should be elected to serve for a period of two years. In order to allow for a system of alternate rotation of the members

initially four of the members including the President will retire in the second year and the remaining three in the third year. However, all members of the Executive Committee should be elected during the General Assembly Meeting. At the deliberations of the Executive Committee, it is recommended that the Chairman should have the right of a casting vote.

(c) The Secretariat and Secretary General

The Committee was of the view that at this initial stage, the problem of the seat of the Association, as well as the Secretariat, should be given careful study, and therefore recommends that this be referred to the Executive Committee who shall report back to the next meeting of the General Assembly on their recommendations. Meanwhile, it is proposed that the last sentence in clause 7.01 be deleted.

The Committee also reviewed the scope of the work of the Secretary General and in the light of the responsibility attached to the office of a Chief Administrative Officer of the Association, recommends that he or she shall be appointed for three years at the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and that he or she shall be eligible for re-appointment. The Secretary General shall be authorized to effect the collection and disbursement of the funds of the Association and shall report annually to the Treasurer.

The Committee reviewed and agreed with the proposal that the Secretary General, after consultation with the Executive Committee, shall accept contracts to carry out studies and consulting work, and shall distribute them for execution to member bodies or permanent technical committees. This is recommended for inclusion in the Draft By-Laws as clause 8.05.

(f) Meetings of the General Assembly

The Committee considered the necessity to develop an attractive programme of work for the meetings of the General Assembly so as to encourage participation of the members in large numbers. To this end it decided to recommend to the Executive Committee that a strong emphasis be given to the discussion of professional problems during the meetings of the General Assembly, and that a geographical rotation of the venue be encouraged as much as possible.

(g) Progress Report

On the conduct of business, the Committee recommends that members should be kept informed by the Secretariat, of the progress made in the Association's activities, by means of quarterly newsletters.

(h) Amendment of Constitution

The Committee recommends a procedure for the alteration of the Constitution by which a two-thirds majority of the members voting at the plenary meeting of the Association could effect an amendment of the Constitution.

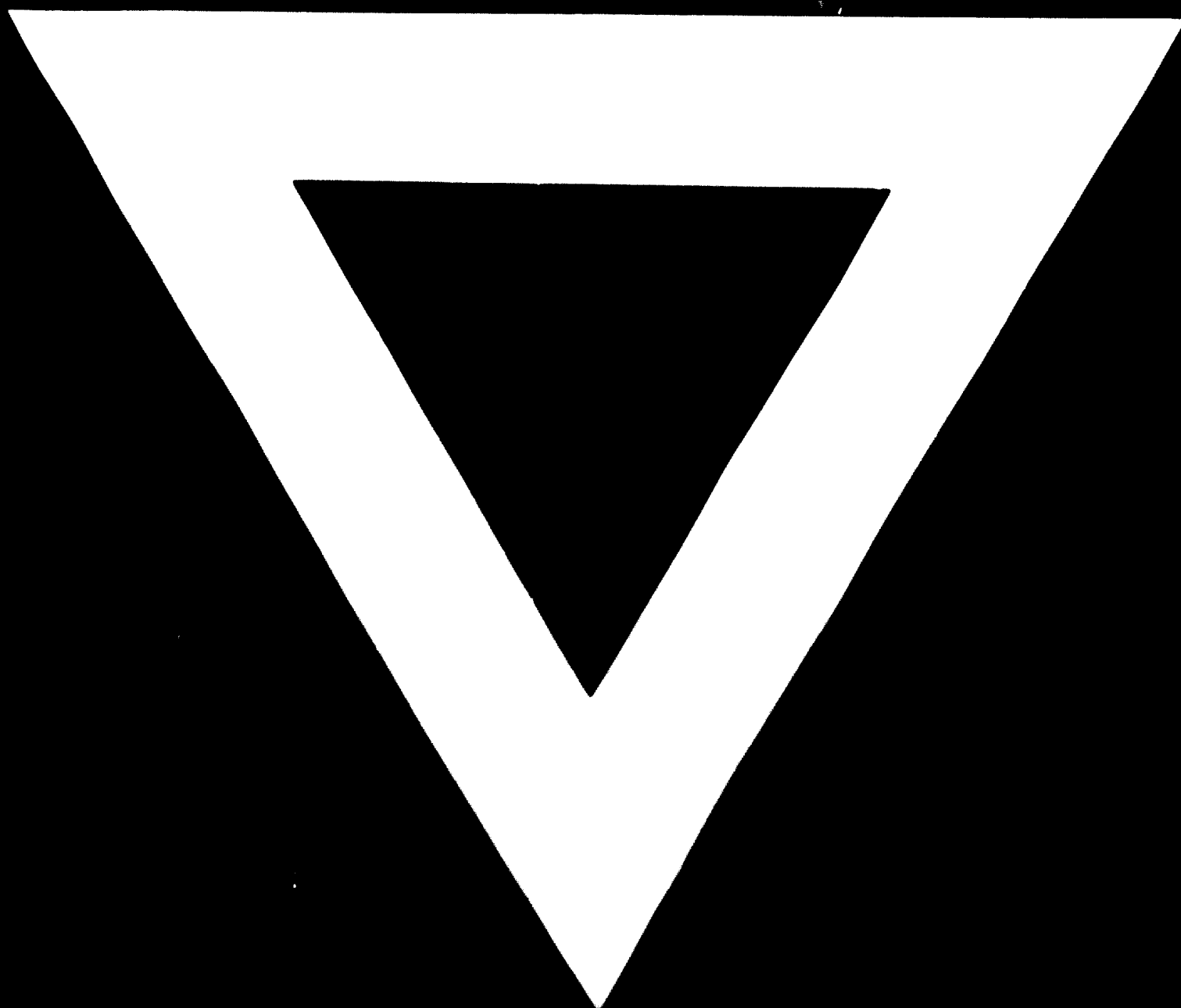
(i) Addendum to the Constitution

The Committee considered a proposal that a chapter be added to the Constitution to make it possible to include the By-Laws and Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly. This was accepted as a valuable addition to the Constitution and it is therefore recommended to the plenary meeting of the Association for adoption.

4. Rules of Procedure

The Preparatory Committee reviewed the Draft Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and having taken into consideration comments received on this Draft Rules of Procedure recommends to this meeting that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee for further study and report back at the next meeting of the General Assembly. In this respect the Preparatory Committee would suggest to the Executive Committee to collect the views of the member associations on the subject and on this basis to prepare the new draft of these Rules.





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