



Amnesty International members only

33rd International Council Meeting

Circular 5: Voting entitlements of sections, structures and the international membership

AI Index: ORG 10/6318/2017
To: Sections and structures
ICM Session: Plenary decision sessions
From: International Board
Date: 9 June 2017

PURPOSE STATEMENT

This circular gives information on the voting entitlement of sections, the international membership and a list of recognized structures entitled to one vote at the 2017 International Council Meeting (ICM). Please refer to the Statute of Amnesty International (articles 18a and 19) for full information around voting rights.

DISTRIBUTION

- This circular should be shared with your section / structure's ICM delegation and board.
 - This document should be shared with anyone else involved in ICM preparation.
 - 2017 ICM Papers: all ICM papers are available on the ICM website: [2017 ICM website](#)
- Website password: 2017ICM_Rome (o=zero)

Voting entitlements of sections, structures and the international membership

The Statute and voting rights

Articles 18a and 19 of the Statute of Amnesty International¹ determine the voting rights of sections, structures and the international membership. Section voting rights are determined according to **either the size of membership** or by the **number of groups** registered with the International Secretariat (IS) (see articles 16 & 17 for definition of groups and members). Recognized structures shall have the right to appoint one voting representative to the International Council (IC).

- According to article 18a, the international membership shall have the right to **appoint one representative** to the IC. **In addition**, they may appoint:
 - *more than 250 members 1 representative*
 - *more than 2,500 members 2 representatives*
 - *more than 15,000 members 3 representatives*
 - *more than 40,000 members 4 representatives*
 - *more than 80,000 members 5 representatives*

- According to article 19 of the AI Statute, all sections shall have the right to appoint **one voting representative** to the IC. **In addition** a section may appoint:
 - *more than 250 members 1 representative*
 - *more than 2,500 members 2 representatives*
 - *more than 15,000 members 3 representatives*
 - *more than 40,000 members 4 representatives*
 - *more than 80,000 members 5 representatives*

or, if a section so chooses:

- *10 – 49 groups 1 representative*
- *50 – 99 groups 2 representatives*
- *100 – 199 groups 3 representatives*
- *200 – 399 groups 4 representatives*
- *400 groups and over 5 representatives*

The Statute and assessment payments

As stated in article 19:

“Only sections having paid in full their annual fee as assessed by the International Council for the two previous financial years shall vote at the International Council. This requirement may be waived in whole or in part by the International Council.”

There are 5 sections that have not met the above article of the Statute in relation to the 2014 and 2015 assessment payments: AI Australia, AI Greece, AI Hong Kong, AI Ireland and AI Italy.

However, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed between the IS and AI Australia and AI

¹ POL 20/001/2013: Amnesty International Statute 2013

Ireland and the International Board (Board) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with AI Greece. AI Hong Kong and AI Italy have agreements in place about assessment payment with the International Secretariat Finance Programme.

International Board recommendation to the International Council

The Board recommends to the International Council that voting rights are allocated to AI Australia, AI Greece, AI Hong Kong, AI Ireland and AI Italy because assessment payments and any related issues are covered by individual MoU, MoA or agreements with IS Finance Programme.

The Statute and standardized financial reporting (SFR)

As stated in article 19:

"If an AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL entity has not provided the agreed annual financial reports and its audited accounts to the International Secretariat within one month of the final date for submission, that entity is not entitled to vote at the International Council. This requirement may be waived in whole or in part by the International Council."

There are 2 sections that have not met the above article of the Statute in relation to the 2014 and 2015 SFR submissions, which were due by 30 June 2015 and 2016 respectively: AI Taiwan (2014) and AI Hong Kong (2015).

International Board (Board) recommendation to the International Council

AI Taiwan: the section did not provide annual accounts for 2014 as these were not required for non-government organisations in the country. Accordingly the IS Finance Programme did not enforce this requirement.

The International Board recommends to the International Council that voting rights are allocated to AI Taiwan.

AI Hong Kong: Due to changes in the AI Hong Kong Finance Team the section was delayed in submitting their annual accounts. The IS Finance Team has now received this information.

The International Board recommends to the International Council that voting rights are allocated to AI Hong Kong.

2017 ICM voting rights

Sections submitted details of their membership and group numbers via the 2016 Standard Action Report (SAR). A follow-up email was sent to section chairs from ICM@amnesty.org on 24 January 2017 asking them to ensure the information provided in the SAR was correct, and to confirm whether they wanted their votes allocated by members or groups.

ICM 2017 - VOTING RIGHTS				
Sections	Number of Groups	Number of Members	Rights allocation by	Number of Votes
Algeria	12	185	Members	2
Al Aotearoa New Zealand	147	14,682	Groups	4
Argentina	n/a	1,998	Members	2
Australia	422	7,519	Groups	6
Austria	55	49,660	Members	5
Belgium (Fr)	58	23,554	Combined Members	5
Belgium (Fl)	240	19,822		
Benin	51	556	Groups	3
Burkina Faso	60	10,326	Members	3
Canada(Eng)	389	63,612	Combined Groups	6
Canada (Fr)	300	11,330		
Chile	0	3,720	Members	3
Colombia (virtual section)	n/a	570	Members	2
Côte d'Ivoire	26	13,125	Members	3
Czech Rep	12	3,934	Members	3
Denmark	40	83,280	Members	6
Faeroe Islands	1	1,500	Members	2
Finland	300	16,869	Members	4
France	290	73,104	Groups	5
Germany	601	31,438	Groups	6
Ghana	239	3,413	Groups	5
Greece	5	1,050	Members	2
Hong Kong	4	275	Members	2
Hungary	0	540	Members	2
Iceland	59	8,019	Members	3
Ireland	72	21,414	Members	4
Israel	0	2,507	Members	3
Italy	175	37,652	Members	4
Japan	66	4,647	Members	3
Korea (Republic of)	4	11,161	Members	3
Luxembourg	14	873	Members	2
Mexico	15	4,562	Members	3
Mongolia	21	6,017	Members	3
Morocco	17	622	Groups	2

Nepal	71	5,539	Groups	3
Netherlands	251	250,521	Members	6
Norway	78	112,000	Members	6
Paraguay	2	4,246	Members	3
Peru	12	1,088	Members	2
Philippines	31	2,109	Members	2
Poland	9	7,824	Members	3
Portugal	54	2,296	Groups	3
Puerto Rico	11	247	Members	1
Senegal	135	7,075	Groups	4
Sierra Leone	55	3,405	Groups	3
Slovenia	0	4,300	Members	3
Spain	112	82,706	Members	6
Sweden	196	98,645	Members	6
Switzerland	78	45,000	Members	5
Taiwan	16	201	Groups	2
Togo	27	3,940	Members	3
Tunisia	69	4,467	Members	3
United Kingdom	408	115,102	Members	6
Uruguay	0	342	Members	2
USA	906	186,434	Members	6
Venezuela	20	43,427	Members	5
Zimbabwe	102	10,501	Members	3
Structures	Number of Groups	Number of Members	Rights allocation by	Number of Votes
Malaysia	2	316	n/a	1
Mali	88	777	n/a	1
Moldova	50	1,200	n/a	1
Slovakia	5	150	n/a	1
Thailand	0	200	n/a	1
Turkey	5	2,036	n/a	1
International Membership	Number of Groups	Number of Members	Rights allocation by	Number of Votes
International Membership	0	105,930	Members	6
SG-managed suspended section	Number of Groups	Number of Members	Rights allocation by	Number of Votes
Ukraine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a