



INTERPOL

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

*Terms of Reference for the  
Regional Conferences*

[II.A/TRRC/GA/2004 (2023)]

**REFERENCES**

Terms of Reference for the Regional Conferences adopted by the General Assembly at its 73rd session (Cancún, Mexico, 2004) by Resolution AG-2004-RES-10.

Article 5 amended by the General Assembly at its 91st session (Vienna, Austria, 2023) by Resolutions GA-2023-91-RES-03 and GA-2023-91-RES-04.

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**1. BACKGROUND**

General Assembly Resolution AGN/66/RES/2 (New Delhi, 1997) defined the status of regional conferences. This Resolution amended the Constitution and General Regulations so as to treat regional conferences as committees of the General Assembly and thus as statutory meetings within the meaning of Article 52(1)(b) of the General Regulations. The aforementioned Resolution was thus intended to ensure that Member States that had not fulfilled their financial obligations towards the Organization could nevertheless participate in regional conferences.

During the 32nd European Regional Conference (Noordwijk, 2003), following a proposal by a drafting group of the INTERPOL European Committee, it was recommended that the INTERPOL European Committee work closely with the General Secretariat to create draft Terms of Reference for the European Regional Conference. It was subsequently agreed to broaden this objective by proposing draft Terms of Reference for all the regional conferences.

**2. MEMBERS**

The members of the regional conferences shall consist of the National Central Bureaus of member countries located within the INTERPOL Regions, which include Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. Representatives of National Central Bureaus from countries outside the region, other regional conferences, regional law enforcement initiatives, and other organizations may be invited to and may attend meetings of the regional conference as observers.

**3. OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

The objectives of the regional conferences are:

- to identify real, specific problems of criminality that transcend national boundaries, that are found within all or part of their regions, that are either of an operational or of a strategic or policy nature, and that are amenable to action or solutions on an institutional level that could not otherwise be achieved through action by individual NCBs;
- to propose flexible, tailored solutions to the problems thus identified and in so doing to promote ownership of the solutions by the regional NCBs;

- to develop and adopt, if appropriate, a regional business plan and/or accompanying action plan as a complement to the core functions and priorities of the Organization or the initiatives of the General Secretariat;
- to recognize that key services must continue to be delivered on a global basis within INTERPOL's legal and institutional framework.

**4. AUTHORITIES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

Each regional conference is authorized, within the scope of the foregoing objectives:

- 4.1 to meet on a regular basis;
- 4.2 to take formal decisions that are binding on it and its subsidiary bodies;
- 4.3 to contact and cooperate with the corresponding regional office within the General Secretariat;
- 4.4 to contact and cooperate with other regional conferences
- 4.5 to receive accounts of surveys of NCBs that have been conducted by the General Secretariat, provided that the subject of the survey agrees to the release of the information by the General Secretariat;
- 4.6 to forward recommendations to one or more NCBs within the region or itself as a regional conference;
- 4.7 to forward recommendations, as provided in Article 37.2 of the General Regulations, to the General Secretariat, which shall be responsible for coordinating any further transmission, if appropriate, to the Executive Committee or General Assembly;
- 4.8 to advise the General Secretariat of any perceived need for coordination between the regional conference and other regional law enforcement initiatives;
- 4.9 to establish subsidiary organs, which shall be known as regional committees;
- 4.10 to adopt Terms of Reference for the regional committee that is associated with regional conference in question, provided that such Terms of Reference are consistent with the Organization's Constitution, Rules, Regulations and procedures;

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- 4.11 to delegate to the regional committee such functions as the regional conference considers appropriate, provided that these functions are within the scope of authority of the regional conference;
- 4.12 to elect the members of the regional committee when established.

### 5. WORKING METHODS

The working methods of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

- 5.1 Except as provided herein, meetings of regional conferences and any subsidiary organs shall be subject, *mutatis mutandis*, to the same rules as the plenary session of the General Assembly.
- 5.2 The Vice-President for the INTERPOL region or one of the members of the Executive Committee from the region shall chair the regional conference for that region. The travel and subsistence expenses of the members of the Executive Committee, incurred by their attendance at the Regional Conference of their respective region, shall be borne by the Organization. Each Executive Committee member may decline to have their expenses borne by the Organization. The Executive Committee members shall remain part of their national delegation.
- 5.3 Each regional conference shall choose the venue where the following session shall be held. It may decide that the session shall be held by virtual means or alternatively at facilities made available by the General Secretariat. If circumstances make it impossible or inadvisable to hold the following session of the regional conference as initially decided, the chairperson of the conference may decide to choose a different venue, provided that the host country has given the necessary assurances in accordance with the applicable rules, or to hold the session by virtual means. The chairperson of the conference shall report to the regional conference on his or her decision.
- 5.4 Decisions at the regional conference shall be taken by a simple majority except in cases where a two-thirds majority is required.
- 5.5 A two-thirds majority is required when the regional conference:
- forwards recommendations;
  - approves the Regional Business Plan and Regional Action Plans.
- 5.6 An ad hoc committee shall be set up to give a prior opinion on all proposals requiring a two-thirds majority. The ad hoc committee shall consist of five members elected by the members of the regional conference at the start of the Conference.

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