

## **Annex 13**

Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)

# IASI

## Inter-American Statistical Institute

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### ● Presentation

#### Background

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) was founded on May 12, 1940, at the initiative of a group of members of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), interested in maintaining and developing in the American region activities and programs that were being carried out by the ISI, and that were interrupted as a consequence of World War II.

The original idea was that of establishing a transitory mechanism, destined to operate during the time of the world conflagration. Nevertheless, IASI quickly implemented a series of projects of great impact in the statistical development of the countries in the Western Hemisphere, thus surpassing the original idea.

Among the projects developed by the IASI in its first decade of existence, it is worth to emphasize the launch, in 1943, of the publication of its journal Estadística, which continues to be edited at the present time; the promotion and holding of training programs; the starting of a series of Inter-American Statistical Congresses (1947 and 1950), later assumed by the Organization of American States (OAS) as Inter-American Statistical Conferences; and most notably the implementation of the Program of the Census of the Americas, whose first round corresponded to 1950. In what relates to education, the promotion of the establishment of university programs for the formation of statisticians, whose first concrete result was the creation of the career of Mathematical Statistician at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, whose operations started in Rosario, Argentina in 1948 deserves special mention. On April 11, 1950 a close cooperation of the Institute with the OAS was started by means of an Agreement that was revised on October 27, 1955, and then replaced by another one, signed on March 12, 1985, whose life ended on December 31, 1996. The cooperation and coordination relations between both organizations are now maintained in a more flexible way, within the spirit of the above referred agreements.

#### Objectives

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) is a professional organization whose purpose is to promote statistical development in the American region. It seeks the following objectives:

- (a) development and strengthening of the statistical profession;
- (b) promotion and dissemination of advances in statistical theory and methods;
- (c) improvement in the methodology for production of both governmental and non-governmental statistics;
- (d) promotion of measures aimed at improving the comparability and availability of economic and social statistics among the nations of the region; and
- (e) cooperation with national and international organizations in activities aimed at statistical improvement in the region.

#### Constitution and Bylaws

Download the Constitution and Bylaws file in MSWord format (.doc)

## Inter-American Statistical Institute

**CONSTITUTION** \***Article I. Name and Objectives**

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) is a professional organization whose purpose is to promote statistical development in the American region. It seeks the following objectives: (a) development and strengthening of the statistical profession; (b) promotion and dissemination of advances in statistical theory and methods; (c) improvement in the methodology for production of both governmental and non-governmental statistics; (d) promotion of measures aimed at improving the comparability and availability of economic and social statistics among the nations of the region; and (e) cooperation with national and international organizations in activities aimed at statistical improvement in the region.

**Article II. Membership**

1. Membership in the Institute is individual, institutional, and ex officio, as provided in sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Article.
2. Individual members shall be persons recognized as professionally active in the field of statistics, and admitted to membership in the Institute in accordance with the Bylaws. Members of established reputation in some aspect of statistical work who have reached the age of sixty-five and who have had a minimum of fifteen years of consecutive membership in good standing may be designated as members with Emeritus Status.
3. Institutional members shall be of two classes: Affiliated and Sponsoring.
  - A. Affiliated members shall be agencies, institutions, or organizations which are engaged in statistical work or have statistical interests, admitted to membership in the Institute in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - B. Sponsoring members shall be institutions which are interested in furthering the work of the Institute with financial support, admitted to membership in the Institute in accordance with the Bylaws.
4. Ex officio members shall be persons occupying certain statistical offices or having certain representative capacities in specified national and international agencies and associations working wholly or in part in the field of statistics. Organizations eligible to have an ex officio member shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall be of the following classes:
  - A. Intergovernmental organizations with statistical interest.
  - B. International non-governmental organizations with major statistical interests.

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\* Approved by referendum completed on January 27, 1999.

- C. Statistical agencies and offices which are affiliated members of the Institute.
  - D. National statistical associations.
  - E. Other agencies working wholly or partly in the field of statistics.
5. The admission or designation of members shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in the Bylaws.

### **Article III. Membership Rights and Duties**

1. All members shall have the right to participate in the affairs of the Institute in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws.
2. Each institutional member shall have the right to designate a representative to the Institute.
3. All individual members and representatives of institutional members shall receive the reports and publications of a general character published by the Institute, are eligible for participating in working groups, and have the right to submit written suggestions to the Executive Committee and to the Secretariat on any matter they consider useful to further the objectives of the Institute.
4. Individual members and representatives of affiliated members are eligible for: (a) elective office; and (b) participation in the nomination of candidates.
5. Voting for elective posts and voting by referendum shall be the right of: (a) individual members; and (b) representatives of affiliated members.

### **Article IV. Organization**

The Institute shall function through the following organs: (a) the Executive Committee; (b) the Secretariat; (c) sections; (d) working groups; and (e) national chapters.

### **Article V. Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee shall be the principal directive body of the Institute. It shall consist of a President and three Vice Presidents, elected from the individual members, who shall serve without compensation. In addition, it shall have ex officio members as established in the Bylaws.
2. The members of the Executive Committee shall be selected through elections to be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws. Their tenure of office shall be two years.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year in regular session. It shall meet in special session when so convoked either on the initiative of the President, or on the written request of two of the Vice Presidents, or at the request of the Secretariat.

4. The Executive Committee shall have the following powers and responsibilities:
  - A. To develop the Institute's Bylaws and their amendments and to make them known to all members through the Secretariat.
  - B. To promote the objectives of the Institute and the policies approved by the membership in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.
  - C. To approve the work programs of the Institute and to advise the Secretariat in carrying out those programs.
  - D. To negotiate agreements with other organizations.
  - E. To review periodically all agreements which are been enter into, and to take the necessary measures to effect any needed changes.
  - F. To request and receive financial contributions for the general operation of the Institute as well as for specific projects.
  - G. To determine the manner in which the resources of the Institute's Fund shall be used and authorize expenditures therefrom.
  - H. To authorize the establishment of Sections, in accordance with the Bylaws, and to approve their Constitutions and Bylaws.
  - I. To establish the working groups it deems necessary, to review their activities, and to approve their recommendations or conclusions, taking measures for the implementation of those approved.
  - J. To deal with matters submitted for its consideration by the Secretariat, sections, working groups, national chapters, and members of the Institute.
  - K. To review the annual report of the activities of the Secretariat.
  - L. To prepare annual reports on the activities as well as on the financial situation of the Institute, for information of all members.
5. The President shall have the authority to exercise any function prescribed for the Executive Committee, if unforeseen circumstances make such an action necessary; but shall promptly notify in writting the members of the Executive Committee of the action taken and the circumstances which necessitated it.
6. The Executive Committee may submit to referendum any matter which in its judgement calls for consultation with the membership as a whole.

### Article VI. Secretariat

1. The continuous functioning of the Institute shall be the responsibility of the Secretariat, under the direction of a Technical Secretary.
2. The Technical Secretary is appointed by the Executive Committee of the Institute.
3. Individual membership in the Institute shall be required for appointment to the position of Technical Secretary.
4. The Technical Secretary shall have the following functions:
  - A. To promote the policies, objectives, and work programs of the Institute and to carry out the decisions of the Executive Committee.
  - B. To maintain relations with national and international institutions engaged in statistical work or have statistical interests or provide support to the development of statistical programs.
  - C. To report to the Executive Committee at its regular sessions on the implementation of the agreements signed by the Institute.
  - D. To effect the expenditures authorized by the Executive Committee and submit to the Executive Committee financial statements pertaining to the Fund of the Institute.
  - E. To submit to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval proposals for the work programs of the Institute.
  - F. To submit to the Executive Committee annual reports on the activities of the Secretariat.
  - G. To coordinate the preparation and publication of reports on all the activities of the Institute.
  - H. To conduct the elections of members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.
  - I. To process applications for membership in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.
  - J. To ascertain the representation of institutional members and the designation of ex officio members in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the decisions of the Executive Committee.
  - K. To attend the sessions of the Executive Committee and participate therein with voice but without vote.

- L. To act for the Executive Committee in unexpected situations, with the authorization of the President.
- M. To carry out all other functions as are identified within the Constitution and Bylaws or which may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article VII. Sections**

1. The Executive Committee may authorize the operation of specialized sections of the Institute, to better deal with the interests of the diverse sectors of the statistical community in the American region.
2. The sections shall prepare their own Constitution, which shall be approved by the Executive Committee.
3. The Sections shall admit to their membership such Institute members and representatives of institutional members who indicate their interest in joining. Other interested persons may also be admitted.

#### **Article VIII. Working Groups**

The Executive Committee may establish Working Groups, setting for them the corresponding terms of reference.

#### **Article IX. National Chapters**

1. The Executive Committee may authorize the establishment and operation of National Chapters, whose objectives agree with those of the Institute.
2. National Chapters shall develop their own Constitution, which shall be approved by the Executive Committee.
3. National Chapters shall admit to their membership such Institute individual members and representatives of institutional members who indicate their interest in joining, provided they are citizens or residents of the respective country. Other interested persons may also be admitted.

#### **Article X. Fund of the Institute**

1. Membership dues and all other financial contributions received by the organization shall constitute the Fund of the Institute.
2. Membership dues shall be determined in accordance with the Bylaws.
3. Nonpayment of dues shall be cause for the cancellation or suspension of membership as determined by the Executive Committee.

- 4. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to fix, adjust, and make special arrangements in regard to the payment of dues for each class of membership, subject to the general conditions specified by the Bylaws.
- 5. It shall be the obligation of the Executive Committee to determine the manner in which the resources of the Fund are to be used and to authorize expenditures therefrom.
- 6. The immediate responsibility for effecting expenditures from the Fund shall rest with the Technical Secretary in accordance with the directives of the Executive Committee.

**Article XI. Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall organize meetings of a general or specific nature as it considers necessary for the efficient operation of the Institute.

**Article XII. Languages**

- 1. The official languages of the Institute shall be English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. The working languages shall be English and Spanish.
- 2. The Constitution and Bylaws will be published in the working languages. Differing interpretations of the texts of these documents in both languages shall be clarified by the Executive Committee.

**Article XIII. Referendum**

- 1. Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to referendum.
- 2. Formal proposals for amendments to the Constitution may be presented by the Executive Committee or by at least twenty-five individual members. Furthermore, any member of the Institute may present suggestions for amendments for consideration by the Executive Committee.
- 3. To become effective, amendments must be approved by two-thirds of the votes received within two months.
- 4. The Executive Committee may determine that other matters be submitted to referendum, which shall be decided by the simple majority of votes received within two months.

**Article XIV. Effective Day**

The present text for the Constitution will become effective immediately after approval by referendum.