Motion by the Members of the Constitution Renewal Task Force

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PROLOGUE

The Executive Committee has set up an *IAW "Quo Vadis" Task Force* in springtime to determine the **most important challenges for IAW in the future**. It has worked from May 12 to July 5, 2025.

As a result, three task forces have been established by the Executive Committee on July 8, 2025:

- 1. Communication Strategy (led by Kerstin Loeffler)
- 2. Job and Process Description (led by Simge Simsek)
- 3. Constitution Renewal (led by Sibylle von Heydebrand)

The purpose of all three task forces is to make the IAW fit for the coming decades.

The recommended amendments were submitted to the Constitution Committee. The Committee unanimously endorsed the amendments, with the exception of those marked in italics and square brackets, which were endorsed by a majority of the Constitution Committee.

Motion:

→ The Members of the Constitution Renewal Task Force move to make the following amendments or additions to the Constitution (A., pp. 2–9) and By-Laws (B., pp. 10–15). With the exception of the texts in italics and square brackets (6 in favor, 2 against), all proposed amendments and additions were adopted unanimously within the Task Force.

A. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Current version:	Proposed version:	Justification:
Const. Art. V IAW shall publish a journal. All Members shall receive it and may contribute to it. Individuals and institutions, who are not Members of IAW, may subscribe to the journal as well as to other IAW publications. The Board shall appoint editors of the journal and other IAW media as in Article IX 2a.	Const. Art. V Proposed version 1 [IAW shall publish a digital Journal as part of its website, serving as the central platform for articles, statements, interviews, portraits and other content relevant to the mission and objectives of IAW. All Members shall have free access to the Journal and may be invited to contribute. Content may also be made accessible to the wider public in line with IAW's communication strategy. The Board shall appoint the Chair of the Communication Committee for the website and Journal as well as other IAW media in accordance with Article IX 1.g.] Proposed version 2 [IAW shall publish a digital Journal as part of its website, serving as the central platform for articles, statements, interviews, portraits and other content relevant to the mission and objectives of IAW. All Members shall have free access to the Journal and may be invited to contribute to it. Content may also be made	The current Article V reflects an earlier era when printed journals were the main medium for communication. Today, digital platforms are more effective, accessible, and sustainable. The proposed amendment updates Article V to establish a digital Journal on the IAW website as the central platform for articles, interviews, statements, and other content aligned with IAW's mission. This ensures timely communication, wider visibility, and free access for all Members, while allowing selected content to reach the public in line with IAW's communication strategy. The amendment also clarifies governance by placing responsibility with the Board to appoint the Chair of the Communication Committee, reflecting the shift from a single print editor to coordinated digital media management. This change modernizes IAW's communication practices, strengthens outreach, and ensures sustainability for the future. In the proposed Version 2, every member can actively contribute content, rather than only by invitation, and a quarterly curated selection of online articles will be

accessible to the wider public in line with IAW's communication strategy.

A quarterly selection of the digital articles will be assembled into The International Women's News and be delivered via e-mail to the inboxes of members, women's libraries and archives around the world.

The Board shall appoint the Chair of the Communication Committee for the website and Journal as well as other IAW media in accordance with Article IX 1.q.]

distributed as The International Women's News.

Const. Art. VII.2.

- a. An elected Board Member who is prevented from attending a Board Meeting has the right to appoint a proxy provided that such proxy has active knowledge of the work of IAW and that the member has fully instructed her in the business of the meeting. One person may be a proxy for a maximum of 2 Members.
- b. A Commission Convener who is prevented from attending a Board Meeting has the right to appoint a member of her Commission as a proxy.

Const. Art. VII.2.

- a. Voting Board Members (elected Board Members and appointed Commission Conveners) are expected to attend every Board meeting, in person or online, as appropriate.
- b. Any voting Board member who is unable to attend a Board meeting may appoint a proxy, with voting rights for that Board meeting. The proxy must have active knowledge of the work of IAW and the member must have fully instructed her in the business of the meeting. One person may be a proxy for a maximum of two Members.
- c. A voting Board member may rely on a proxy a maximum of three Board meetings, after which the Board member will be considered to have resigned. The Executive Committee

This section clarifies the use of proxies and actions in the event a Board member is unable to fulfill her duties.

The amendment modernizes proxy rules by clarifying that all voting Board Members are expected to attend meetings, in person or online, while allowing proxies only as an exception and for a limited number of meetings. It also sets clear procedures for replacing Members who resign or cannot fulfill their duties, ensuring accountability, continuity, and stronger governance in line with IAW's needs.

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	may then appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of that Board member's term after appropriate consultation with relevant parties including the nominating organization. d. In the event that a Board Member resigns from office, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of that Board member's term after appropriate consultation with relevant parties including the nominating organization. e. A Board member who is unable to fulfill her duties for an extended period shall notify the Executive Committee, which may then appoint a replacement to complete the Board member's term after appropriate consultation with relevant parties including the nominating organization.	The amendment removes ambiguity by
Const. Art. VII.3. 3. Voting at Board Meetings is restricted to:	Const. Art. VII.3.c. 3. Voting at Board Meetings lies with:	clarifying voting rights for elected Board
a. Board Members as defined in section 1 above or	a. Board Members as defined in section 1	Members who also serve as Commission Conveners. It ensures that such individuals
their proxies.	above or their proxies.	hold only one vote, thereby upholding the
b. The immediate Past President for the first	b. The immediate Past President for the first	principle of equal representation and preventing the concentration of influence.
Triennium after leaving office.	Triennium after leaving office.	This change strengthens fairness,
	New:	transparency, and balance in Board decision-making.
	c. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an elected	
	Board Member who simultaneously serves	
	as a Commission Convener shall be entitled	
	to one vote only.	
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Const. Art. VII.5.

The Honorary Presidents, the Honorary Vice Presidents, the representatives of the IAW to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and to regional intergovernmental organisations, as well as the conveners of committees, editors and auxiliary officers appointed by the Board are entitled to attend Board Meetings and International Meetings in an advisory capacity.

These together with the Board Members are referred to as the Extended Board.

Const. Art. VII.5.

The Honorary Presidents, the representatives of the IAW to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and to regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as the chairs of committees, editors, coordinators of IAW projects, and auxiliary officers appointed by the Board are entitled to attend Board Meetings and International Meetings in an advisory capacity.

These together with the Board Members are referred to as the Extended Board.

The position of Honorary Vice President has already been discontinued by decision of IAW. This amendment corrects the Constitution accordingly, removing the obsolete reference while leaving all other provisions on the Extended Board unchanged.

The Water and Pads Project is IAW's first successful supranational initiative. Although no project mandate exists in the constitution, the project has grown since its 2019 pilot to include 10 member organizations and 30 schools. It is now a consolidated and accountable undertaking that should be formally acknowledged by IAW. Therefore, its coordinators — as well as those of future projects — should be included in the Extended Board.

Const. Art. VII.7.

After each Triennial Congress the newly elected Board Members shall elect from amongst themselves two Executive Vice-Presidents to serve on the Executive Committee and Regional Vice-Presidents to coordinate the activities of IAW in their respective regions.

Const. Art. VII.7.

After each Triennial Congress the newly elected Board Members shall elect from amongst themselves two Executive Vice-Presidents to serve on the Executive Committee and may appoint Regional Coordinators who coordinate the activities of IAW in their respective regions.

The amendment replaces the mandatory election of Regional Vice-Presidents with the option to appoint Regional Coordinators as needed. This gives the Board flexibility to right-size regional leadership to workload and volunteer capacity, fill roles quickly when appropriate, or leave them vacant without breaching the Constitution—all while maintaining effective coordination through appointees accountable to the Executive Committee.

In short, the change preserves the election of two Executive Vice-Presidents, and

Const. Art. VII.11.: The Board shall meet immediately before and after Congress and at least annually between Triennial Congresses, being summoned for the purpose by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall convene an additional Board meeting at the request of five Members of the Board.	Const. Art. VII.11.: The Board shall meet immediately before and after Congress and at least twice annually between Triennial Congresses, being summoned for the purpose by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall convene an additional Board meeting at the request of five Members of the Board.	introduces optional, appointment-based Regional Coordinators to provide adaptable, efficient regional leadership. The current rule of at least one Board meeting per year no longer does justice to the importance and responsibilities of the Board. With the increased pace of developments in international advocacy, organizational partnerships, and internal governance, meeting only once between Triennial Congresses risks slowing down decision-making and weakening oversight. The amendment therefore raises the minimum to two Board meetings annually, while retaining the possibility of convening additional meetings at the request of Board Members. This adjustment strengthens accountability, improves responsiveness, and ensures that the Board can provide consistent guidance and leadership in support of IAW's mission and activities throughout the triennium.
Const. Art. IX.1.a. In the post-Congress Meeting, the Board shall appoint: a. An Admissions Committee for the triennial period, which shall consist of three Members of the Executive Committee.	Const. Art. IX.1.a. In the post-Congress Meeting, the Board shall appoint: a (delete)	Constitution Article IX.1.a is to be deleted in full, as the responsibility for admitting new member organizations is transferred directly to the Executive Committee under new Article X.8 of the Constitution. The change makes the Board-appointed Admissions Committee unnecessary, streamlines procedures, avoids duplication, and clarifies

		accountability for admissions within IAW's governance framework.
Const. Art. IX.1.g. In the post-Congress Meeting, the Board shall appoint: g. The editors of the journal and other communication media	Const. Art. IX.1.g. In the post-Congress Meeting, the Board shall appoint: g. the Chair and the Members of the communications Committee, including the editor/s of the website and other publications.	The amendment expands the Board's appointment role from individual editors to the full Communications Committee, including the Chair and editors of the website and publications. This modernizes governance, strengthens coordination, and reflects the central role of digital media in IAW's work.
Const. Art. IX.3. 3. In the pre-Congress meeting the Board shall appoint a Resolutions Committee in accordance with the bylaws. The Board may appoint auxiliary officers to help carry out the work of the Board. The Board may institute ad hoc Committees for other fields of the internal work of IAW as deemed necessary and appoint their Conveners and Members. The Board shall establish job descriptions for the various tasks.	Const. Art. IX.3. The Board may appoint auxiliary officers to help carry out the work of the Board. The Board shall establish job descriptions for the various tasks.	Resolutions shall no longer be included as part of the formal agenda of Congress. IAW works more effectively through its Action Programme, policy statements, and advocacy strategies developed by the Board and Executive Committee in consultation with Members. Therefore, the provision requiring the Board to appoint a Resolutions Committee has to be deleted. Likewise, the authority to create ad hoc Committees is removed, since this responsibility now lies with the Executive Committee under the new provision on Task Forces (Art. X.9). These ad hoc Committees, now to be formally referred to as <i>Task Forces</i> , will be created and appointed by the Executive Committee, ensuring clearer authority, consistency, and streamlined governance.

		The amended text retains the Board's authority to appoint auxiliary officers and to establish job descriptions, ensuring clarity and efficiency while streamlining governance and avoiding duplication.
Const. Art. X	Const. Art. X New: Const. Art. X.7. The Treasurer or Secretary General may appoint their Assistants as proxies to attend Executive Committee meetings and vote on their behalf on specific items based on a pre-approved meeting agenda.	This new provision allows the Treasurer or Secretary General to appoint Assistants as proxies for Executive Committee meetings, limited to voting on specific items based on a pre-approved agenda. The amendment ensures continuity of decision-making when these key officers are unable to attend, while safeguarding accountability by restricting proxy authority to defined agenda items. It provides necessary flexibility without weakening the responsibility of elected officers.
Const. Art. X	Const. Art. X New: Const. Art. X.8. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the admission of new member organizations.	This article assigns responsibility for admitting new member organizations to the Executive Committee, replacing the former Admissions Committee which is to be deleted. The change streamlines governance, and ensures that admissions are handled efficiently and consistently within IAW's organizational structure.
Const. Art. X	Const. Art. X New: Const. Art. X.9. The Executive Committee may create Task Forces to support IAW's activities.	This article authorizes the Executive Committee, rather than the Board, to create Task Forces to support IAW's activities. Since Task Forces operate only for a limited period of time, it is more efficient for the

Const. Art. XI The Presidents of the Affiliates and Associates and the (extended) Board constitute the International Meeting. They convene once in between Congresses on the occasion of a Board Meeting. A President who cannot come may send a proxy. The International Meeting determines the theme and the outline of the next Triennial Congress. Voting at the International Meeting is reserved for the Presidents of Affiliates and Associates and the voting Members of the Board or their proxies.	Const. Art. XI Between Congresses, the Board with input from the Presidents of the Affiliates and Associates organizes International Meetings for all Members. The International Meeting discusses and formulates the theme of the upcoming Congress.	Executive Committee to appoint their Members directly. The amendment replaces the former provision on ad hoc Committees, using the more current term "Task Force" and ensuring clearer lines of authority, streamlined governance, and consistent terminology. Task Forces give the Executive Committee the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging needs and organize work effectively in line with IAW's priorities. The current provision narrowly defines the International Meeting as a gathering of Affiliate and Associate Presidents with the Board, held only once between Congresses, with limited participation and formal voting rules. The proposed amendment broadens the concept by opening International Meetings to all Members, while maintaining a clear focus on preparing the theme of the upcoming Congress. This change makes International Meetings more inclusive and participatory, strengthens member engagement between Congresses, and ensures that Congress themes are informed by a wider range of voices within IAW. It also updates procedures to reflect current practices, where member dialogue and input are central to shaping IAW's work. Resolutions shall no longer be included as
Const. Art. XIV Bullet point number 10	Const. Art. XIV Bullet point number 10	part of the formal agenda of Congress. IAW works more effectively through its Action

resolutions placed before the Congress	• (delete)	Programme, policy statements, and advocacy strategies developed by the Board and Executive Committee in consultation with Members.
		By removing resolutions from the Congress agenda, Congress can focus on strategic direction, evaluation of progress, and setting priorities for the coming triennium. This amendment therefore streamlines proceedings, and ensures that IAW's policy work remains timely, consistent, and impactful.

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Current version:	Proposed version:	Justification:
By-Laws Ad Art. II.2. Resolutions	By-Laws Ad Art. II.2. Resolutions	Resolutions shall no longer be included as part of the formal agenda of Congress. IAW works more effectively through its Action Programme, policy statements, and
The Resolutions Committee presents the draft resolutions on the first day of Congress. The draft Resolutions have been sent to all participants beforehand by the proposer. Private discussions on the Draft Resolutions may take place under the guidance of the Resolutions Committee. On the third day the Resolutions Committee reports	The Resolutions Committee presents the draft resolutions on the first day of Congress. The draft Resolutions have been sent to all participants beforehand by the proposer. Private discussions on the Draft Resolutions may take place under the guidance of the Resolutions Committee. On the third day the Resolutions Committee	advocacy strategies developed by the Board and Executive Committee in consultation with Members. By removing resolutions from the Congress agenda, Congress can focus on strategic direction, evaluation of progress, and setting priorities for the coming triennium.
to Congress on its activities before the debate and	reports to Congress on its activities before the	This amendment therefore streamlines proceedings, and ensures that IAW's policy

voting on the drafts.

The report includes advice to Congress on the draft Resolutions submitted taking into account: consistency with the objectives of IAW.

- The President or Chair for the session shall control debate and maintain order. She may call to order speakers who wander from the subject under discussion or are disorderly and, having called them to order twice, may require them to discontinue their speech.
- 2. No resolution when moved shall be debated until it has been seconded. No one shall speak more than once on a resolution or amendment except by way of personal explanation.
- 3. The mover of a motion shall enjoy the right of reply.
- 4. Amendments to a resolution may be moved during debate and when duly seconded shall be debated and disposed of before the debate on the resolution (or the resolution as amended) rea sumed. When an amendment is moved, the mover shall furnish a copy of it in writing to the Chair. An amendment may be moved to an amendment.

debate and voting on the drafts.

The report includes advice to Congress on the draft Resolutions submitted taking into account: consistency with the objectives of IAW. (delete)

1. The President or Chair for the session shall control debate and maintain order. She may call to order speakers who wander from the subject under discussion or are disorderly and, having called them to order twice, may require them to discontinue their speech.

2.--- (delete)

3. The mover of a motion shall enjoy the right of reply.

4.--- (delete)

5. It shall be open to the Board and Congress itself to fix a time limit to the duration of speeches.

work remains timely, consistent, and impactful.

What remains preserves essential safeguards for orderly debate, the right of reply for movers, and the ability to impose time limits on speeches. This amendment therefore clarifies responsibilities, removes redundancy, and modernizes the by-laws while maintaining fair and effective procedures.

5. It shall be open to the Board and Congress itself to fix a time limit to the duration of speeches.

By-Laws Ad Art. V

A. The editors of the journal are responsible for periodic publication.

They decide on the content provided it is in line with the objects and mission of IAW and sources are acknowledged.

They may make rules for the length of articles sent by Members.

They accept communications for publication from the President, the Board, the Executive Committee, Commission and Committee Conveners and appointed representatives, relevant to IAW work and policy. They may edit these communications after consultation with the author. Authors remain responsible for their texts.

The editors are responsible for costs staying within the budget decided by Congress. They report to the Treasurer before each printed publication, in order to obtain her approval copayment. Significant changes in the appearance of the journal must be approved by the Board. Congress decides if advertisements will be accepted.

B. The editors of the website, the E-newsletter and other media decide on the contents of the media keeping in mind the vision and mission of IAW and ensuring that sources are acknowledged.

The editors accept communications from the President, the Board, the Executive Committee, Commission and

By-Laws Ad Art. V

To be replaced by the following:

A. Website

- 1. The IAW website is the central platform for communication and publications. It includes a dedicated section which serves as the main hub for editorial content, statements from the President, communications from the Board and Committees, member portraits, interviews, obituaries, news and other content relevant to the mission and objectives of IAW.
- 2. The Members of the Communication Committee are responsible for planning, commissioning and publishing content on the website. They may invite journalists, Members or external experts to contribute. Briefings can be provided to ensure coherence, quality and relevance. The Chair of the Communications Committee has the lead.
- 3. The Communications Committee accepts communications for publication from the President, the Board, the Executive Committee, Commission and Committee Conveners and appointed representatives, relevant to IAW work and policy. These communications may be edited

The current by-law provisions on the journal, website, newsletter, reports, and distribution reflect a print-based era and are overly detailed, prescriptive, and in part outdated. The proposed amendment replaces them with a modernized framework that establishes the IAW website as the central platform for communication and publications, supported by the Newsletter and social media channels. This ensures coherence, visibility, and professional standards across all communication outlets while maintaining clear lines of responsibility through the Communications Committee.

The amendment also clarifies expectations for reporting by officers, commissions, and representatives, with the Annual Report compiled and published digitally. Overall, this change modernizes IAW's communication and reporting practices, ensures consistency across platforms, and aligns governance with the organization's current and future needs.

In short, the amendment replaces outdated print-based rules with a digital-first framework, clarifies the role of the

Committee Conveners and appointed representatives, relevant to IAW work and policy and suited for the medium in question.

They may edit these communications after consultation with the author. Authors remain responsible for their texts.

The editors are responsible for costs staying within the budget decided by Congress.

C. Members of the Executive Committee, Member organizations, international representatives, regional vice presidents, regional coordinators, commission conveners and Members holding other offices are expected to report on relevant matters, either in IWN, the Newsletter or on the web site and in the Annual Report.

Before a Triennial Congress, International Meeting or Board Meeting these Members are required to report on their activities in relation to the IAW Programme of Action and other issues of their choice.

An editor appointed by the Board compiles the reports in an Annual Report which is published on the web site and copied for each participant in the Meeting.

The cost of the copying is foreseen in the IAW budget. Extra copies are sent to the relevant authorities for legal or fiscal purposes.

Major changes in the content or format of the Annual Report are to be decided by the Board.

Distribution of Journal (This is a provisional reminder of the database)

The Membership Officer / administrator of the database

after consultation with the author. Authors remain responsible for their texts.

4. The Communications Committee is responsible for ensuring that costs remain within the budget decided by Congress. Major structural or conceptual changes in the concept, design or structure of the website must be approved by the Board.

B. Newsletter and Social Media

- 1. The Newsletter and IAW's social media channels are media used to inform Members, partners and the public about IAW activities, events and priorities. They are expected to highlight or link to content published on the website.
- 2. The editors of the Newsletter and social media decide on their content within the framework of the overall communication strategy and in coordination with the communications lead. They may adapt content for their formats and accept communications from the President, the Board, the Executive Committee, Commission and Committee Conveners and appointed representatives, relevant to IAW work and policy. These communications may be edited after consultation with the author. Authors remain responsible for their texts.
- 3. Editors ensure that social media interactions (comments, messages, replies) are handled in line with IAW's values and established house rules.

Communications Committee, and strengthens coherence across all communication channels.

are responsible for up-to-date lists of Members and subscribers/ maintenance of the database. The Membership officer/ administrator of the database ensures that the printers of the journal have the most current list of Members and subscribers for purposes of mailing. There may be a list of exchange subscriptions checked once a year by the Executive Committee. Board Members and Members may ask for additional copies for promotion purposes. No one shall receive more than two free issues of the printed journal.	Inappropriate, offensive or off-topic contributions may be moderated or removed. 4. Editors use the approved IAW branding and design templates to ensure a consistent presentation across all channels. C. Reporting 1. Members of the Executive Committee, Member Organizations, International Representatives, Regional Coordinators, Commission Conveners and Members holding other offices are expected to report on relevant matters through the website, the Newsletter, social media, or in the Annual Report. 2. Before a Triennial Congress, International Meeting or Board Meeting, these Members are required to report on their activities in relation to the IAW Programme of Action and other issues of their choice. 3. An editor appointed by the Board compiles the reports in an Annual Report which is published on the website and shared with to each participant in the Meeting. The cost of any printing or distribution is foreseen in the IAW budget.]	Resolutions shall no longer be included as
By-Laws Ad Art. X.3.k) k) Congress resolutions, which would usually be included in the minutes	By-Laws Ad Art. X.3.k) k) (delete)	part of the formal agenda of Congress. IAW works more effectively through its Action Programme, policy statements, and advocacy strategies developed by the Board

		and Executive Committee in consultation with Members. By removing resolutions from the Congress agenda, Congress can focus on strategic direction, evaluation of progress, and setting priorities for the coming triennium. This amendment therefore streamlines proceedings, and ensures that IAW's policy work remains timely, consistent, and impactful.
By-Laws Ad Art. XIV	By-Laws Ad Art. XIV	As resolutions shall no longer be included as part of the formal agenda of Congress, the
Resolutions	(delete)	Resolutions Committee has also to be
1. Before Congress the Board appoints a Resolutions Committee. The committee shall have five Members from different countries and include two Board Members. The committee shall appoint one of their number as chair. 2. Draft-Resolutions for the consideration by Congress may be submitted by the President, the Executive Committee, the International Meeting, the Board, one or more member organizations, a group of 10 individual Members, Commissions and Committees. 3. Draft-Resolutions, preferably in both English and French, together with the name and status of the Proposer(s) shall be received by the Resolutions Committee on the first day of Congress. The Board establishes a form for resolutions. 4. The Resolutions Committee may amend, redraft or combine one or more resolutions as a composite resolution. However, before any of these		discontinued. IAW works more effectively through its Action Programme, policy statements, and advocacy strategies developed by the Board and Executive Committee in consultation with Members. By removing resolutions from the Congress agenda, Congress can focus on strategic direction, evaluation of progress, and setting priorities for the coming triennium. This amendment therefore streamlines proceedings, and ensures that IAW's policy work remains timely, consistent, and impactful.

IAW CONGRESS XL, November 2025 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS