



CROSS-REGIONAL STRUCTURE FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

ARAB COUNTRIES CROSS REGIONAL STRUCTURE (AC-CRS)

1. Article 13(e) of the EI Constitution makes provision for the establishment of cross regional structures, which would undertake a role similar to that of regional structures but without the same constitutional status as regional structures, for a specific group of member organisations in countries in more than one region which are linked by cultural and/or linguistic inheritance. The structures should be designed to facilitate the development of the member organisations and provide an opportunity for them to consider issues of mutual concern. The structures should also be designed to attract participation from the recognised leaders of the organisations in the countries concerned. Such structures must be governed by by-laws approved by the Executive Board.
2. The Constitution does not define the requirements for a cross regional structure but it implies that such a structure should be similar to a regional structure.
3. In these circumstances a cross regional structure should
 - (i) Be defined through a listing of the member organisations eligible to be involved and of their countries and the existing EI regions to which those countries are assigned;
 - (ii) Have a defined consultative structure with elected officers and a committee;
 - (iii) Have formal links with the Regional Structures of the EI Regions to which the countries are assigned;
 - (iv) Have formal links with the EI Executive Board through the involvement of Executive Board members from the regions concerned;
 - (v) Receive secretariat support under the authority of the EI General Secretary; and
 - (vi) Require approval of the Executive Board or the General Secretary for all activities which involve expenditure by Education International.
4. In this context the potential membership of the AC-CRS would be the member organisations from the countries listed; any new member organisations from those countries would be invited automatically to join the cross regional structure as well as assigned to the appropriate EI Region:

Algeria (Africa), Bahrain (Asia)*, Egypt (Africa), , Iraq (Asia), Jordan (Asia), Kuwait (Asia), Lebanon (Africa), Libya (Africa)*, Mauritania (Africa), Morocco (Africa), Oman (Asia)*, Palestine (Africa), Qatar (Asia)*, Saudi Arabia (Asia)*, North Sudan (Africa)*, Syria (Asia)*, Tunisia (Africa), United Arab Emirates (Asia)*, Yemen (Africa), Somalia (Africa), Djibouti (Africa), and Comoros Islands (Asia)

(EI does not have any member organisations in the countries marked with an asterisk)
5. EI will subsidise the participation of two representatives of each member organisation at the proposed Biennial Conference, at least one of whom must be a woman.
6. The By-Laws for the cross-regional structure are attached. They have been approved by the EI Executive Board and endorsed by the first general meeting of the member organisations from countries within the cross regional structure.



By-Laws: Arab Countries Cross Regional Structure (AC-CRS)

Structure

1. The AC-CRS will include EI member organisations from the African and Asia-Pacific Regions.
2. The following is the list of countries from which all EI member organisations may be members of the AC-CRS:
Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Comoros Islands, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, North Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Objectives

3. The purpose of the AC-CRS is to provide a consultative structure within EI through which member organisations in the countries concerned:
 - (i) may consider jointly relevant education and human and trade union rights and equality policy issues ;
 - (ii) may be consulted by the EI Secretariat or Executive Board about such issues or about any other EI matter;
 - (iii) may develop policy proposals on issues specific to the cross regional area;
 - (iv) may develop responses or submissions to education and human and trade union rights and equality policy developments relevant to the area;
 - (v) EI may undertake development and training programmes specific to the organisations in the area; and,
 - (vi) EI may organise activities appropriate to the needs of the member organisations in the area.

Governance

4. The AC-CRS will be governed by
 - (i) A Biennial Conference of representatives of organisations in the area;
 - (ii) A Standing Committee consisting of 9 representatives of the organisations from the countries concerned, elected at the Biennial Conference of whom at least three shall be women.
5. A member or members of the EI Executive Board from the regions concerned will be designated by the Executive Board to liaise with the cross regional structure and attend meetings of its governing structures. They will be ex-officio members of the Conference and Standing Committee without voting rights.

Administration

6. The EI General Secretary will appoint a member of the EI secretariat to provide administrative support to the governing structures. The person will be designated as the AC-CRS Coordinator.
7. Financial support for the administration of the cross regional structure will be provided from the EI budget. It may be supplemented by grants and donations from member organisations or other sources acceptable to the Executive Board.



Biennial Conference

8. Each member organisation whose membership dues to EI are paid in full, or who has entered into a special agreement with the EI Executive Board for the payment of such dues, will be entitled to nominate a representative or representatives to attend the Biennial Conference in accordance with the following scale:

Organisations with less than 10,000 dues-paid members	2 representative
Organisations with 10,000 but less than 25,000 dues-paid members	3 representatives
Organisations with 25,000 but less than 40,000 dues-paid members	4 representatives
Organisations with more than 40,000 dues-paid members	5 representatives

9. The members of the outgoing Standing Committee and the members of the EI Executive Board, who are designated to liaise with the cross regional structure, will be entitled ex-officio to attend the Conference.
10. The Conference will be chaired by the person appointed by the Standing Committee to act as its Chair or by the Vice-Chair. In the absence of a Chair or Vice-Chair the Conference shall be chaired by the EI President or by an EI Vice-President.
11. The Biennial Conference will
- (i) Receive a report from the Standing Committee on activities and policies pursued in the cross regional area since the last Conference;
 - (ii) Advise the EI Executive Board on policies, strategies and activities for the area;
 - (iii) Monitor the implementation of EI policies and principles in the area;
 - (iv) Appoint the Standing Committee;
 - (v) Make recommendations for the expenditure of grants received from any source to support activities in the area;
 - (vi) Receive a financial report on expenditure of any grants or donations received to support activities of the structure.
 - (vii) Adopt and amend the By-Laws for the cross-regional structure as provided in By-Law 24.
12. Decisions at the Conference will be made normally by consensus or by simple majority vote of the representatives present. However, representatives of at least five organisations, which together have at least twenty per cent of the total votes available to organisations for electoral purposes at the Conference, may require a roll call vote on any issue for decision by the Conference. The decision will then be made by majority of the total votes cast by organisations using the formula for assigning votes to organisations for electoral purposes.

Election of Standing Committee

13. Nominations for membership of the Standing Committee must be submitted on behalf of member organisations in the countries concerned, to the EI General Secretary or to the designated representative of the General Secretary, at least one month in advance of the Biennial Conference.
- (i) The nomination must contain the name, organisation and country of the candidate and a brief biography.
 - (ii) No organisation may nominate more than one representative of that organisation.
 - (iii) No organisation may have more than one representative elected to the Standing Committee.
 - (iv) The nomination and the relevant information referred to at (i) will be circulated to the member organisations entitled to be represented at the Conference at least one week prior to the Conference.



- (v) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies available then an election will take place at the Conference to determine who the members of the Standing Committee will be for the following two year term. If there are insufficient nominated candidates then the validly nominated candidates will be deemed elected and the EI Executive Board may appoint subsequently representatives of organisations in the area to fill the vacant seat or seats.
- (vi) Each member organisation which is represented at the Conference will be entitled to cast votes in the election in accordance with the provisions of the EI Constitution and By-Laws governing voting in elections at an EI World Congress.
- (vii) The election will be conducted by secret ballot under the supervision of the designated members of the EI Executive Board who are present at the Conference;
- (viii) In order to be valid a vote must be cast for the number of candidates equal to the number of seats available.
- (ix) The term of office will begin at the end of the Conference at which a candidate is elected and end at the end of the following Conference.
- (x) Members will be eligible for re-election for two further terms.
- (xi) Every effort should be made to ensure that gender balance is achieved in the nomination and election of candidates to the Committee.
- (xii) In the event that there are three women candidates or less nominated for election to the Committee, three places shall be reserved from the places for the nine elected representatives on the Committee for women candidates. If there are insufficient nominations to fill those places, then the places may be filled by co-option of a women representative, or representatives, of member organisations at the Conference itself.

Standing Committee

- 14. The Standing Committee will act as the governing body of the cross regional structure when the Conference is not in session. It will have the authority to act in all matters remitted to the Conference other than the appointment of the Standing Committee itself.
- 15. The Standing Committee will meet twice in each calendar year. It will be convened by the EI General Secretary or the designated Coordinator. In the years when the Biennial Conference takes place one of those meetings will take place in conjunction with the Conference.
- 16. At its first meeting after the Biennial Conference the Standing Committee shall elect one of its members as Chair and another member as Vice-Chair of the Committee.
- 17. The Standing Committee will supervise the expenditure of funds allocated to support activities of the AC-CRS and report annually thereon to the EI Executive Board.

Special Conference

- 18. A special conference of the member organisations in the AC-CRS may be convened by the Executive Board or on receipt by the General Secretary of a request from at least half of the member organisations in the area. The purpose for the conference must be stated clearly and must come within the role and responsibilities of the cross regional structure.

Relations with the Regions

- 19. The Presidents (or Chairs of the Regional Committees) of the Regions and the Chief Regional Coordinator or a representative of the regional secretariat for each region will be invited to attend the Biennial Conference.
- 20. Copies of notices of all activities and meetings, and invitations to conferences and seminars organised under the auspices of the cross regional structure, must be sent to the Chief Regional Coordinators of the Regions concerned, and to the General Secretary.



21. Written reports of all activities in the area and draft policy and position papers must be sent to the General Secretary and to the Chief Regional Coordinators of the Regions before they are adopted or issued externally.
22. All statements and policy or position papers prepared through the structure must be submitted for approval to the General Secretary before they are issued.

Resolution of Disputes

23. In the event of any disputes arising in relation to the implementation of these by-laws or to the operation of the cross regional structure, the issue will be referred, in the first instance, to the General Secretary for resolution. In the event that the General Secretary is unable to resolve the issue it will be referred to the Executive Board.

Amendment of the By-Laws

24. These By-Laws may be amended by the Biennial Conference adopting a proposal or proposals which must be submitted to the EI General Secretary or to the designated representative of the General Secretary, at least three months in advance of the Conference. Such a proposal or proposals must be consistent with the EI Constitution and By-Laws and must be approved, subsequent to their adoption, by the EI Executive Board.