GENERAL MEETING PAPER

Adoption of the New IAP Constitution

31st Annual General Meeting | 16 November 2026

1. Purpose and recommendation

This paper invites the General Meeting to approve and adopt the final draft of the new IAP Constitution, replacing the 2020 Constitution. The Executive Committee recommends adoption. The revised text preserves the Association's established objects and member-led character while providing a clearer, more coherent and modern framework for its governance and operation.

2. Background and assurance process

The Constitution was first developed when the IAP was established in 1996 and has since been amended on a piecemeal basis. A comprehensive review was therefore undertaken to remove ambiguity, improve internal consistency and ensure that the Constitution reflects the IAP's present structure and working practices.

A Review Board comprising experienced representatives from Ireland, England, Austria and Uganda, together with IAP Secretariat representatives, examined the proposed amendments. All substantive policy questions were reserved for the Executive Committee. The review process provided both detailed independent scrutiny and appropriate Executive Committee oversight before referral to the General Meeting, which remains the supreme authority and the only body empowered to adopt the Constitution.

3. High-level summary of changes and improvements

- **Clearer objects and membership rules.** The Association's objects have been updated and expressed more clearly, including its role in upholding professional and ethical standards and supporting training, capacity building and guidance. Eligibility, admission and appeal routes for organisational and individual membership are more clearly defined, and the consequences of subscription arrears are made more practical and transparent.
- **Stronger and clearer governance.** The powers and duties of the Executive Committee are consolidated and clarified, including its responsibility for oversight of the Association's affairs, budgets, work programmes, appointments and membership matters. The roles and functions of the President and Vice-Presidents are expressly stated, and clearer arrangements are provided for suspension, vacancies, temporary incapacity and succession.
- **Improved accountability and continuity.** Terms of office and eligibility requirements for Executive Committee members are expressed more clearly, including when membership must cease and the limited use of exceptional circumstances. The immediate past President's supernumerary role is linked to the first full term of the successor, providing continuity without an open-ended tenure.

- **Defined official and operational structures.** The provisions governing the Secretary-General and General Counsel are modernised and aligned, and the role of the Executive Director is formally recognised. The Treasury and Bureau are given separate, stand-alone articles, improving institutional clarity and financial governance.
- **More meaningful member decision-making.** The membership is correctly described as the General Assembly, which meets through the General Meeting. Its status as the supreme authority is preserved, while voting rights, vote weighting, notice requirements and decision-making procedures are stated more clearly. The Constitution also permits electronic Executive Committee business and remote conferences where appropriate.
- **Fairer safeguards and proportionate oversight.** Appeal routes have been streamlined to avoid unnecessary duplication. The Conflict Committee's remit is clarified and it will assess whether the original decision was reasonable in all the circumstances. Conference participation by non-members may be approved administratively where it supports the IAP's objects, while politically sensitive, reputational or wider governance matters remain subject to Executive Committee approval.
- **Greater resilience and completeness.** The revised Constitution includes clearer provisions on non-compliance caused by oversight, amendment procedures, interpretation and exceptional circumstances, and introduces a dissolution provision dealing with both the required majority and the proper distribution of remaining assets.

4. Recommendation

The proposed Constitution is clearer, more internally consistent and better suited to the governance of a modern international association. It strengthens accountability and procedural fairness, while retaining appropriate flexibility and preserving the General Meeting's ultimate authority. Its adoption will provide a sound constitutional basis for the IAP's future work.

5.Procedure

In accordance with Article 16 of the 2020 Constitution, the proposed amended Constitution was submitted on the proposal of the Executive Committee (Article 16.1) and lodged with the Secretary-General at least 120 days before the General Meeting (Article 16.2). Notice of the proposed amendments was communicated to members through the July 2026 newsletter, more than 60 days before the General Meeting, thereby satisfying the applicable notice requirement. Under Article 16.3, adoption requires the approval of the General Meeting by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes of members present and voting, calculated in accordance with Article 14.4.

6. Proposed motion

The General Meeting resolves to approve and adopt the document entitled 'IAP Constitution - 2026' in replacement of the 2020 Constitution, with effect from the conclusion of this General Meeting.

IAP General Counsel
27 October 2026