

## Report of the General Assembly Task Force

### The work of the task force

In the spirit of IGLYO's 2014 General Assembly a task force was set up by the Board with the mandate to revise and suggest for the General Assembly changes to the IGLYO statutes and General Assembly Regulations. The call for the task force was announced the 2nd of May with deadline the 25th of May. Three people were selected for the task force, Kimon Panagiotopoulos from Colour Youth, Greece, Fran Cowling from National Union of Students, UK and Luisa Tolu from We are, Malta. The task force was lead by Board Member and secretary Eirik Rise.

From June - September 2015 the task force held three online meetings. In between, the task force used google docs and e-mails to accomplish their work.

The task force made recommendations to the Board to be submitted for the General Assembly. The Board went through the major suggested changes at the third Board Meeting in Iceland in August 2015. Based on the input from the Board the task force further developed the regulations and amendments and a final draft was submitted and approved by the Board at an online meeting on the 27th of September.

### General Principles

As a general rule, the task force tried to provide as simple a framework as possible, in order to be easily understood and respected. Not every possible scenario was taken into account during the task force's work because that would make the regulations and the statutes two very long and complex documents. A simpler, easier-to-implement approach was chosen, with the understanding that these documents may have to be revised in the future, as IGLYO's needs evolve.

Because the task force's mandate was not a political one, no major changes to IGLYO's work were suggested. Instead, the suggested documents reflect what IGLYO currently is, while attempting to smooth some processes to ensure easier participation in the General Assemblies.

### General assembly regulations

The regulations outline the running of the General Assembly and cover everything from speaking and voting rights to proposals and elections. The regulations need to be approved at the beginning of the meeting and can only be changed with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority.

## Summary of the main areas regulated

### 1. Delegates and observers rights

Regulates who can attend and who has rights at the meeting. All observers have to be approved by the general assembly and only delegates have voting rights.

### 2. Opening of the General Assembly.

Explains the roles of the General Assembly's Chairing Pool which facilitates the meeting. Also includes the first actions an Assembly takes.

### 3. Proposals and deadlines for suggestions

This article outlines the process through which proposals are submitted, while also providing clear deadlines, in order to avoid confusion during the plenary.

### 4. Discussions

A simple framework for discussions before a vote to ensure that everyone has the option to speak, as well as maintaining the meeting's realistic time-frame.

### 5. Voting

This article explains how decisions are made, as well as what kind of different majorities may be required depending on the subject, such as election of Board members.

### 6. Editing committees

This is a new suggestion for the IGLYO General Assembly, to help assist delegates in putting forth proposals and presenting them in a clear, efficient way.

## Statutory changes

Divided into four parts

1. Name and aim
2. Membership
3. General assembly
4. Board

### 1. Name and aim

- In this section the task force suggested that most technical details (such as address) be removed unless it's a legal necessity. There is also the suggestion to remove the reference to a Dutch organisation, see the board motion on dissolving the Dutch association IGLYO.

### 2. Membership

- Limiting membership to non-profit NGOs, as well as geographically for those that IGLYO can provide the budget to participate in the IGLYO activities. The geographical limitation is the practice of today and reflected in the membership policy approved last year, but membership should be regulated by the statutes.
- Since internal regulations are being suggested, an addition was made for the members to have to accept them, along with the statutes, as the IGLYO framework. A definition of member

suspension is added, to avoid confusion. Also, a suggestion to remove the obligation of changing the membership fee every year and instead change it when it is necessary.

### 3. and 4. General assembly & Board

- In the articles relating to the General Assembly and the Board, several changes are proposed which reflect what IGLYO is currently doing, in particular removing non-existent bodies and roles, adding the co-option of Board members, adding the option of online general assemblies and clarifying Co-chairing of the Board. Furthermore, a suggestion was made for the general assembly to approve IGLYO's budget for the next year, to improve transparency. A rephrasing of the creation of ad hoc groups (such as this task force) was also suggested to better reflect the functioning of IGLYO as of today.

Finally, there are some grammar and language corrections.

### **Other discussions raised**

Even though the task force's mandate was not a political one, as mentioned above, some issues were unavoidably raised during the task force's work. It was suggested that IGLYO would greatly benefit from having internal regulations not just for the General Assembly, but for the federation as a whole. Such regulations could include, among else, how a task force is formed and how it interacts with the Board or the member organisations, how a general assembly is hosted and more, hopefully making it easier for members to get involved.

An election committee was suggested as a way to make elections and candidatures for the Board easier as well as strive to ensure Board member's diversity both in terms of identity and in terms of skills. The discussion around an election committee raised issues such as how to identify neutral criteria on what would be a qualified board member, how to meet conflict of interest in the election committee in regards to proposing friends or members of own organisation, as well as reflections around democracy and challenges with having a committee proposing a board. The task force concluded their discussion that there needs to be more discussion with the membership around these issues before an election committee could be proposed.

In terms of membership, the task force discussed about the current geographical restrictions for members, caused by IGLYO's funding restrictions and if some steps could -or should- be taken to increase its outreach to more countries and explored different models and structures for membership, such as the ILGA-model. In addition, the task force discussed whether some regulatory changes should be suggested to ensure equal regional representation during the General Assembly.

These are some issues for the members to discuss further in order to reach an understanding within IGLYO as a whole.