



Criteria for Non-voting (Associate) membership

Approved by the General Assembly 26 June 2014

Purpose and Background

The purpose of these criteria is to enable and encourage organisations and groups who share ICA's mission and values to formally join the ICAI global community as Associate members, and so to join existing members in peer-to-peer support and collaboration at the global level, to the greater benefit of all.

ICAI Membership Criteria were revised by the General Assembly in India in 2010, and the same criteria have been in force since then:

- Ten specific criteria were detailed for Statutory (voting) membership
- Associate (non-voting) membership was allowed for organizations working to become statutory members and others who see themselves as aligned with ICA globally and wish to formally commit to peer to peer activities within and beyond their nation, but no more specific criteria were defined.
- Individual membership was discontinued, although 2007 guidelines for forming new ICAs have not yet been revised and still require prospective founders of new ICAs to first join ICAI as individual members.

Current membership criteria can be found in the ICAI 2014 Business plan [here](#), and the 2007 guidelines for forming new ICAs [here](#).

The ten criteria for statutory membership have been working reasonably well, and there has been no suggestion to revise them again. A new annual membership survey was launched in 2013, including questions on how members are meeting the criteria as a means of mutual accountability.

There are many organisations globally who are to some extent aligned with or related to ICA, including partners of member ICAs and new organisations established by former staff of ICAs. None have yet opted to join ICAI as Associate members (except three long-standing Associate members), however, perhaps because ICAI has not made clear the benefits, the criteria and the pathway for joining. To enable and encourage such organisations to formally join the ICAI global community, and engage together in peer-to-peer support and collaboration, could be of benefit to all concerned in pursuing ICA's profound purpose and mission.

We have interest in establishing new ICAs from several new countries, including France and Croatia, however at present we have no pathway for them to start. For this reason it was suggested last year to reinstate the category of individual membership. Following feedback at the December 2013 regional gatherings it is now agreed here instead to allow for constituted but unregistered groups to join as Associate members, as well as registered organisations.

ICAI membership criteria	Voting (Statutory) membership <i>Source: India GA, 2010 and Bylaws 2006</i>	Non-Voting (Associate) membership <i>Approved by the GA, 26 June 2014</i>
	There are ten criteria which define active members in good standing, eligible for Statutory (Voting) membership:	Eligibility for Non-voting (Associate) membership is defined in relation to the same ten criteria :
1. Registered organization	Members ICAs must be a registered organization in their country. They must have a Board comprised of a majority of people not making financial gain from ICA	Associate members must be a registered organisation in their country, or a constituted group with at least five members. Associate member organisations and groups may be for-profit or not-for-profit.
2. One per country	There will be only one per country.	There may be more than one Associate member per country. In a country where there is a Statutory member, any application for Associate membership must have the support of the Statutory member.
3. ICA methods	Each member ICA has to demonstrate competency in ICA methods, particularly Technologies of Participation (ToP)	[not required]
4. Annual Dues	Member ICAs pay the dues set by the GA on time, for both symbolic and practical reasons (currently minimum US \$200)	[required as for Statutory members – currently minimum US \$200]
5. Transparent Accounting	Each member ICA will have an annual external independent review of their finances and will share this with ICAI	[not required]
6. Program Reporting	Each member ICA will prepare and share with ICAI an Annual Program Report.	[not required]
7. Effective projects	Each member ICA should have active projects and services which demonstrate ICA core values and meet national needs in their own country.	[not required]
8. Aligned Values	Members ICAs will operate out of values in alignment with traditional and emerging ICA values.	[required as for Statutory members]
9. International Support	Each member ICA will provide some inputs and effort for the international work of ICA.	[required as for Statutory members]
10. Compliance Agreement	Each member ICA agrees that if it does not comply with the above criteria it will not consider itself an ICA and will quit using the ICA name. The General Assembly will be the final authority of this matter.	Associate members agree not to consider themselves an ICA or use the ICA name - except with ICAI approval in cases of former Statutory members and Associate members on a pathway to future Statutory membership

Nb: [Source: India GA, 2010 and Bylaws 2006]: “We have associate (non-voting) member organizations of two types - organizations working to become statutory members, and others who see themselves as aligned “with ICA globally and wish to formally commit to peer to peer activities within and beyond their nation.”