



# **GUIDE ON ASSOCIATIONS OF INVENTORS**



*published by*  
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



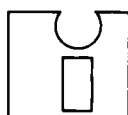
*in cooperation with*  
the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA)



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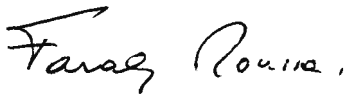
WIPO, IFIA 1991

## FOREWORD

This Guide on Associations of Inventors has been prepared by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA), whose contribution has been very useful and is much appreciated.

The purpose of the present Guide is threefold: first, to assist in the establishment of national associations of inventors where they do not yet exist; second, to provide information about the organization and objectives of existing associations and third, to draw the attention of associations of inventors to the importance of becoming members of IFIA.

To this effect, general information and guidelines are first given (Part I), followed by excerpts from the statutes of some of the member associations of IFIA (Part II) and the statutes of IFIA itself and of AFIA (African Federation of Inventors' Associations) as a regional organization (Part III).



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Geneva, June 1991



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## PART I

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

#### I. Introduction

1. There is no generally accepted way of naming an association of inventors. In some cases the word "inventor" (or "innovator," etc.) does not even appear in the title.<sup>1</sup>

2. Today, associations of inventors exist in over 55 countries, thirty two of which are developing countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe).<sup>2</sup>

3. In a few countries, more than one association exists; however, in general, some kind of link between them has been established or (as in France and the United States of America) they are united under an umbrella organization.

#### II. Membership

##### Inventors and Other Individuals (Natural Persons)

4. In the majority of countries, the associations are primarily composed of inventors. In general, most of those members are independent inventors, not employee inventors. They represent a small but influential fraction of the total number of inventors in their country. However, membership of the associations is usually open to all individuals who agree with their aims: university professors, research workers, patent agents, etc. Membership for such individuals is considered useful, for individual inventors cannot act effectively alone: they need the support of persons who can assist them with legal or technical experience, linguistic knowledge and political relations.

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1 In Denmark, for example, the association is called the "Danish Association for the Promotion of Inventions." A similar expression ("Promotion of Invention and Innovation") was adopted by the association in the Côte d'Ivoire or, in Ghana--"Ghana Inventors' and Industrial Property Protection Association (GIIPPA)."

2 See Annex for complete list of countries and Directory of Associations of Inventors, published by the International Bureau of WIPO, sixth edition, 1991.

5. In some countries, the associations are usually composed of inventors and innovators organized at enterprise level. Such associations are sometimes open to all potential innovators and also to supporters of the idea of promoting inventive activity; in such cases, they become mass organizations.

### Women

6. In four countries (Canada, Finland, Japan and the Philippines), separate associations of women inventors have been established. In Sweden an informal section for women inventors exists inside the national association.

### Legal Entities (i.e., Companies, Industrial and Business Enterprises)

7. In addition to natural persons (inventors and individual members), many associations also admit legal entities (companies, organizations, industrial and business enterprises) to membership. Such a system is considered useful for several reasons: it offers inventors the opportunity to meet representatives of industry and business, increases the association's power and influence and adds to its financial resources.

8. Such associations have at least two separate categories of members. Individual members that, sometimes, are called "ordinary" members and corporate members (companies, industrial and business enterprises, etc.) that are called, for instance, "associate" members. (In addition, the majority of associations have donor and honorary members.)

### Total Membership

9. The total membership of associations of inventors in many countries is relatively low. For instance, in the countries of Western Europe, the largest associations are those of the United Kingdom, of Sweden, which have little over 1,000 members. In the Philippines, the association has about 120 members, while those of Egypt and Zaire have 20 to 30 members.

### III. Functions and Activities

10. Like other professional associations, inventors' associations group the inventors together, establish a link between them, and allow exchanges of ideas between them and the other members of the association. A major objective is to participate in policy making on all questions concerning inventors. Another basic function is to promote and publicize the achievements of inventors for the benefit of the country. Associations have other functions also, some of general interest, others of interest mainly to the inventor members. All these functions are examined below. In practice, of course, associations of inventors will only be able to assume some of the said functions.

#### Promotion of National Inventive Activity and Technological Innovation and Protection of the Interests of Inventors in General

11. In this regard, an association of inventors may have the following functions:

(i) to enhance the development of technological innovation among the people at large. This is done, for instance, by encouraging the organization of creative societies and clubs for young people, and by supporting their activities;

(ii) to improve the inventors' image by fostering greater public awareness of the social and economic benefits the country can derive from inventions and other technological innovations; this is done by explaining and emphasizing the role inventors can play in improving the quality of life; for this purpose, associations should maintain close contacts with the mass media; they should moreover encourage their members to make public presentations, to exhibit relevant inventions in fairs and exhibitions, etc.;

(iii) to ensure public recognition of the merits of inventors, for instance through awards and prizes at both national and international levels;

(iv) to arouse the interest and secure the cooperation of other professional circles by establishing dialogue between inventors and representatives of engineers, scientists and researchers associations as well as representatives of industry in general; close contacts should be maintained with universities, technical high schools and other educational institutions;

(v) to study draft laws and regulations and propose new texts and amendments with a view to improving the protection of the inventor's interests and promoting inventive activity in the country;

(vi) to make representations to the government authorities on behalf of the membership concerning policies and practices affecting the promotion of inventive activity and technological innovation and the protection of the interests of inventors and innovators;

(vii) to encourage the government authorities to take actions that have a bearing on the promotion of national inventive and innovative activity; it could, for instance, contribute to the implementation of laws, have some of its members among the judges when invention contests are organized by government institutions; participate in the elaboration of national R & D programs, etc.;

(viii) to promote relations with similar foreign associations, both directly and through the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) or any regional group of associations, such as the African Federation of Inventors' Associations (AFIA).

#### Services to Individual Inventor Members

12. Such services are essential in order to attract inventors and avoid their subsequent withdrawal from the association. Inventors are individualists and expect something in return from the association. As far as these services are concerned, the following could be of interest.

13. Some services mentioned in statutes of associations can be more easily provided than others. Such services include:

(i) providing general and educational information, by organizing lectures and seminars and distributing brochures and/or bulletins;

(ii) informing members on current problems and developments;

(iii) giving general legal advice to inventors;

(iv) acting as "ombudsman" between the authorities, such as the industrial property office, and members who encounter problems.

14. Some other services to individual inventor members which are mentioned in the statutes of several associations might be more difficult to achieve, mainly in view of the very limited financial possibilities of associations. State institutions

may be in a better position, at least in developing countries, to render such services. The following services can be mentioned as examples:

(i) giving legal advice in specific cases;

(ii) giving expert opinions and technical advice in specific cases; for instance, some associations offer one free-of-charge consultation per year and per member in licensing matters, while others offer to undertake one free state-of-the-art search per year per member;

(iii) promoting contacts between the inventor and industrial enterprises and financial institutions (for example, by providing members with letters of introduction).

#### IV. Structure

15. Each association will have a president and other elected officers to conduct the work of the association. Administrative and other questions will depend on the size of the association, the local practices and other specific conditions, including legislation and/or regulations. For general reference, excerpts from the statutes of a number of associations of inventors are reproduced in Part II of this Guide.

#### V. Relations with the Government and Other Organizations

16. Any national inventors' association should try to persuade the Government that the country needs inventors in order to increase the country's self-reliance in technological matters. Consequently, it is in the interest of the country as a whole that there be close collaboration between the association and the authorities. Such collaboration might for instance consist in channelling the efforts of inventors towards government projects such as home building, roads or power generation, which conform to the country's needs and are matched to its resources.

17. Public financial assistance for the encouragement, development and implementation of inventions, however well designed, can be effective only if it is provided on a scale appropriate to the size of the society served by the inventors and the economic value of their contribution to the community. Such financial assistance should be regarded by the government not as a charity, but as an investment.

18. Here are a few ways in which governments can assist inventors' associations:

(i) by giving assistance in the creation of an inventors' association; the government could encourage and assist a few better-known inventors who, in turn, would bring together other inventors; the assistance would consist in compiling a list of inventors in the country and also in providing practical facilities, such as a meeting place, an office and office equipment;

(ii) by financing at least part of the budget of the association; this is desirable, particularly in developing countries, for the members of the associations are generally few in number and can hardly afford to pay membership fees of anything more than a symbolic amount; this is a practice that has already been adopted by several governments of developed market-economy countries, some of which offer subsidies, usually through the government institution dealing with science and technology and the promotion of technological innovation; in some developing countries, the industrial property office, or another government institution responsible for science and technology offers indirect financial assistance to the national association of inventors by making staff or premises available to its secretariat;

(iii) by giving moral support to the association; the heads of industrial property offices and other government institutions dealing with science and technology or the promotion of technological innovation should whenever possible offer their moral support to the association of inventors, for example by attending the more formal meetings of the association, opening its exhibitions, giving lectures and other public presentations, etc.

19. Associations of inventors will find it advantageous to cooperate with other professional associations interested in technological achievement, such as associations of engineers and scientists. They should also cooperate with the unions of workers in the technological field, particularly in order to promote the interests of employee inventors.

20. Associations of inventors should also cooperate with business organizations, such as chambers of commerce and industry, private institutions for the economic development of the country, etc. Such organizations could provide the inventors' associations with financial support for some of the activities, e.g., the award of cash or other prizes.

## VI. International Cooperation

21. In 1968, the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) was created as an international non-governmental organization.

22. IFIA's membership is at present composed of associations of inventors from 39 countries. Full members: Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Soviet Union, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe; collaborating member: the Women Inventors Project of Canada; candidate members: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Nigeria; corresponding member: the Women Inventors' Organization of the Philippines (WIAPI).

23. The supreme body of IFIA is the General Assembly which meets once every two years in a member country, in rotation among the member associations.

24. The General Assembly appoints an Executive Committee which meets twice a year.

25. Ever since its creation, WIPO has established and maintained close working relations with IFIA. Such cooperation was intensified when WIPO and IFIA jointly organized international conferences in May 1984 in Geneva, in June 1986 in Stockholm, in October 1988 in Beijing, and in August 1990 in Tampere (Finland), at which inventors and associations of inventors were represented, together with government officials working in institutions and departments responsible for the promotion of inventiveness. At those conferences, WIPO and IFIA decided to undertake further joint activities in favor of inventors, giving high priority to programs of assistance to inventors from developing countries. Offering assistance to associations of inventors in developing countries, including assistance in establishing such associations, is one of the continuous activities in which WIPO and IFIA cooperate closely.

26. At the regional level, the Cooperating Body of the Nordic Inventors' Associations has been in existence for many years. In 1988, the African Federation of Inventors' Associations (AFIA) was officially established as an international, non-governmental organization.

27. The founding members of AFIA are associations of inventors from 10 countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zimbabwe. In addition, inventors' associations or similar organizations have been recently created in Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, and Togo.

28. The supreme body of AFIA is the Assembly. The first meeting took place in 1988, in Abidjan, where the constitution of the Federation was adopted.

29. For the time being, members of AFIA do not pay regular contributions, its financial resources being formed on the basis of voluntary contributions or donations.

30. AFIA has established and maintains close working relations with WIPO and IFIA.



PART II

**EXCERPTS FROM THE STATUTES  
OF SOME IFIA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

I. Objectives, Aims, Functions and Activities

China

(China Association of Inventions (CAI))

The China Association of Inventions is a mass organization which consists of inventors and those who actively participate in and enthusiastically support inventive activities throughout the country.

The purpose of the China Association of Inventions is to arouse the enthusiasm for invention and innovation latent in the masses, provide guidance and promote their inventive and innovative activities, identify and support inventive talents, protect the justified rights and interests of inventors and accelerate the development of science and technology in order to serve economic construction and social development and make contributions to building our country into a highly developed modern socialist country.

Responsibilities of the China Association of Inventions:

(1) Guide, encourage and foster the vast number of members of the Association and personalities of various circles to be engaged in inventive and innovative activities; promote the extensive development of mass inventive and innovative activities.

(2) Propagate and implement the Government's policies, decrees and regulations related to invention and innovation, and voice relevant opinions and suggestions.

(3) Protect the justified rights and interests of inventors, make known their views and needs.

(4) Develop invention consultative services and various kinds of promotional and exhibition activities for inventions, spread information, link up channels of communication; promote the application and development of inventive achievements.

(5) Commend inventive and creative persons; publicize and commend inventors who have made distinguished achievements and organizations and individuals who have made great contributions to supporting and subsidizing inventive and creative activities.

(6) Establish contacts with the associations of inventors of other countries and regions throughout the world and the relevant international organizations.

(Statutes, Chapter 1, Items 1-3)

Côte d'Ivoire

(Association ivoirienne pour la promotion des inventions et innovations (AIPI))

AIPI is non-political and non-confessional.

The aim of AIPI, in particular, is to promote inventions and other technical innovations in the Côte d'Ivoire and to protect the interests of domestic innovators and inventors in general. To achieve these aims, AIPI assumes the following functions and activities:

(a) promote the development of technical innovation among the general public;

(b) improve public awareness of the social and economic advantages which the country may derive from inventions and other technological innovations;

(c) improve the image of the inventor;

(d) obtain public recognition of the merits of inventors, in particular by giving awards and prizes;

(e) ensure cooperation between inventors and innovators, on the one hand, and other interested circles, on the other, such as engineers, scientists, research workers, lawyers and representatives of industry;

(f) study and propose legal texts for the promotion of invention and innovation;

(g) support all action by the public authorities aimed at promoting national innovation and innovators;

(h) promote relations with the corresponding foreign associations.

AIPI also has the aim of rendering special service to inventors and innovators, particularly by providing them with the relevant information, by organizing exhibitions, lectures and seminars for them, by distributing brochures and bulletins to them, etc.

(Statutes, Articles 3-5)

**Denmark**

(Dansk Forening til Fremme af Opfindelser (DaFFO))  
(Danish Association for the Promotion of Inventions)

The objectives of the Association are to be active in the promotion of Danish innovative activities, and to that end in particular:

- to promote the understanding of the significance of inventions and technical innovations as an economic and cultural factor;

- to promote the activity, the efficiency and yield of Danish inventiveness;

- to promote interest in financing technical innovations;

- to attend to common interests in legal, administrative and economic matters.

In order to realize these objectives, the Association by its duly elected board can undertake:

(a) activities of information, publication and exhibition;

(b) guidance of inventors;

(c) meeting activity and other means of inducing contact and exchange of experience between inventors mutually and amongst persons having activities, influence or experience of significance for the creation and the use of inventions;

(d) work for the development of, if necessary, the establishment of institutions conducive to the creation and use of inventions.

(e) work for the establishment of foundations to support development of inventions and innovative activity;

(f) work for clarification and easement of fiscal problems connected with inventive and innovative activity;

(g) work for research in creativity;

(h) participate with qualified testimony on laws, regulations, and social conditions influencing the creation of inventions and innovations;

(i) participate in international cooperation in organizations that contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Association;

(j) take the initiative in other fields promoting the objectives of the Association.

(Statutes, Article 2--  
Objectives, and 3--Scope)

### Finland

(Central Organization of Finnish Inventors' Associations)

The object of the Organization is to act as a national central organization of associations promoting inventors and invention and as such to

- support Finnish inventors and to promote and develop invention,
- act as a link between its member associations in ideological and professional matters,
- represent its membership in official matters at home and abroad,
- promote collaboration between individual inventors and groups of inventors and according to its opportunities to promote the general conditions for the marketing of inventions,
- safeguard the general and common interests of inventors, and
- represent general expertise in the field.

In furtherance of its object the Organization shall engage in information, publication, exhibition and competition activities, arrange meetings and education for inventors, and put forward proposals and representations.

(Statutes, Articles 2  
and 3--Object and Activities)

### Germany

(Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Erfindungswesens in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V. (GFEW))

(Association for the Promotion of Inventive Activity in the Federal Republic of Germany)

The aims of the Society shall be exclusively and directly of a non-profit-making nature within the meaning of Articles 51 to 68 of the 1977 Taxation Ordinance, in particular through the promotion of science, research and continuous training in the field of technology and the field of industrial property.

A particular aim shall be the theoretical and physical promotion of technical progress, of innovative activity and of inventive activity for the good of the community. The Society may be approached in the public interest for information, advice and expert opinions in respect of inventive activity. The results of its work shall be available to the community.

The Society shall also constitute both a spokesman and the talking partner in all matters and problems of German inventive activity at home and abroad.

(Statutes, Article 2--Aims  
of the Association)

### Morocco

(Association marocaine des inventeurs et innovateurs (AMII))

The objectives of the Association are:

- to group inventors and innovators in order better to define their problems so as better to defend their rights and interests;

- to aid and support inventors and innovators in their actions with respect to the industrial, financial and commercial sectors and in their relationships with official administrations and bodies;

- to examine and to participate in the drafting and revision of legislation that responds to national needs in respect of industrial property;

- to work towards promoting the idea of inventing and innovating in order to improve the quality of life of the people;

- to promote invention and innovation for the creation and rational utilization of local technology adapted to national needs;

- to contribute to the development of invention and innovation as factors of technical and technological progress.

(Chapter I--Establishment  
and Objectives, Article 4)

The means of action of the Association are:

- information activities through press, radio and television;

- the publication of reviews, periodical bulletins, circulars, and the like;
- the organization of and participation in events of all kinds, such as meetings, conferences, congresses, seminars, study groups, visits to factories, entertainments, outings, travel, and the like;
- the organization of and participation in fairs and national and international exhibitions;
- the establishment of contacts with all national and international bodies that can contribute to the success of the Association's endeavors;
- the creation and award of prizes and awards;
- the establishment of a bank of ideas to be available to inventors, innovators and their partners.

(Chapter IV, Article 25--  
Means of Action)

#### Norway

(Norsk Oppfinnerforening (NOF))  
(The Norwegian Inventor Association)

NOF is a national association for inventors and others interested in creativity. NOF is a member of IFIA (International Federation of Inventors' Associations).

NOF's purpose is:

- to further creativity;  
to safeguard common interests of inventors in questions of a legal, administrative and economic nature;
- to act as a consultant to inventors and to issue a Newsletter;
- to work towards cooperation between inventors and contacts with persons and institutes or companies who are potential licensees;
- to promote the importance of creativity as a factor in culture and economy;
- to work for improved social standards for inventors.

NOF is a non-profit organization.

(Statutes, Article 1)

Philippines

(Filipino Inventors Society, Inc. (FIS))

The purposes of this Society are:

(a) to promote and enhance the general development of inventions in the Philippines;

(b) to encourage creative thinking and inventive tendencies and activities among the people;

(c) to work for the approval of legislations for greater encouragement of inventions;

(d) to help sell or cause to be manufactured the members' inventions and to administer, if necessary, their interests in any person, firm or corporation which will develop or manufacture those inventions;

(e) to have the inventors cooperate with each other, either mentally or financially in the realization of one's idea toward perfection of principles or models covering his invention;

(f) to offer the services of the Society in helping solve manufacturing problems of industrialists with the aim in view of simplifying techniques or processes, lowering costs of production and attaining general efficiency for the ultimate benefit of consumers;

(g) to enlist the support of civic-spirited persons or firms to be the benefactors of deserving inventors;

(h) to coordinate and work with the government and/or private research institutions in the application of technical knowledge to industry and other specific pursuits;

(i) to establish an inventors' center, to include different shops, laboratories, museum-library and to establish inventors' experimental stations in strategic regions of the Philippines;

(j) to publish a journal devoted to the promotion of the welfare of inventors and their inventions;

(k) to promote a closer union and confraternity among its members that they may be able to mutually assist and protect each other;

(l) to own stock or to be a member of, any other associations organized under the Corporation Law Act No. 1459, as amended, or of any corporations or associations organized under any previously existing law of the Philippines, and engaged in any activity related to the activities engaged in by this Society;

(m) to invest the funds thereat in stock or bonds or in such other property as may be permitted by law;

(n) to do everything necessary, suitable and proper for the accomplishment of any one of the purposes for the interest or benefit of the Society; and in addition, to exercise and possess all powers, rights and privileges necessary or incidental to the purposes for which the Society is organized or to the activities in which it is engaged.

(Constitution and By-Laws,  
Article II--Purpose,  
Section 2.)

### Sweden

(Svenska Uppfinnareföreningen (SUF))  
(The Swedish Inventors' Association)

The Swedish Inventors' Association (SUF) is a national organization for inventors and other persons interested in inventions. SUF is a member of IFIA (International Federation of Inventors' Associations).

SUF's objectives are:

- to secure cooperation firstly between inventors and, secondly, between inventors and persons interested in inventions and in the utilization of inventions;
- to disseminate information about the technical and economical significance of the inventors' organizations;
- to promote the utilization of inventions and the profitability of inventor activity;
- to promote the development of the patent system;
- to promote cooperation between inventors and people in different fields of research work;
- to stimulate international cooperation between inventors;



- to give advice and guidance to individual inventors;
- to represent in general the common interests of inventors.

SUF is a non-profit organization.

(Statutes, Article P.1--  
Objectives)

### Switzerland

(Erfinder und Patentinhaber Verband der Schweiz (EVS))  
(Association suisse des Inventeurs et des Détenteurs de brevets (ASI))  
(Associazione svizzera degli inventori e possessori dei Brevetti (ASI))

The Association shall be politically and denominationally neutral, and shall have the following aims:

(1) defense of the lawful interests of all its members with respect to their intellectual property rights, notably concerning legislation and in dealings with the authorities and contracting parties;

(2) defense of its members' efforts towards self-promotion by means of appropriate measures, publications, exhibitions, etc.;

(3) encouragement of exchange of experience and amicable relations among its members;

(4) advice to its members on questions of patent law and on technological and commercial questions through the agency of specialists or commissions;

(5) dissemination of knowledge on matters of patent law and technological development by means of lectures and publications;

(6) publication of information bulletins addressed to its members and other interested circles;

(7) the Association may collaborate with other Swiss and foreign associations defending the same ideas, and it may secure membership of international organizations.

(Statutes, Article 2--Aims  
of the Association)

Yugoslavia

(Savez pronalazaca i autora tehnickih unapredjenja Jugoslavije (SPATUJ))

(Yugoslav Association of Innovators and Authors of Technical Improvements)

The basic aims and duties of the Yugoslav Association of Innovators and Authors of Technical Improvements shall be the following:

(1) to encourage, develop and popularize inventive activity, as the most significant factor in the development of national technology, in close cooperation with other social groupings, in particular, socio-political organizations, the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce, the People's Mechanical Society, the Federal Patent Office, etc.;

(2) to make efforts, together with other social groupings, to popularize the Federation in the widest social spectrum, especially in associated labor organizations, and to adopt the relevant regulations;

(3) to create the necessary concrete conditions so that inventive activity may become a constant concern and the subject of day-to-day self-management practice, and to incorporate innovations in the business policies of associated labor organizations;

(4) to make efforts to define a technological development strategy aimed at gradually freeing Yugoslavia from foreign technological dependence and at increasing the export of Yugoslav workers' knowledge and experience;

(5) to make efforts to introduce subjects related to inventive activity in teaching programs from elementary to higher education, for example, those that will encourage young people to be creative in their jobs when they begin to work;

(6) to make efforts to ensure more effective use of scientific, technological and patent data information systems so as to accelerate development of inventive activities in associated labor;

(7) to make efforts to direct the business and credit policies of banks towards increased inclusion of the development of domestic technology, namely, the development of domestic inventive activity and rationalization;

(8) to encourage a higher level of labor association and pooling of economy's resources in the utilization of technological know-how, especially domestic know-how;

(9) to encourage a more active attitude towards domestic inventive activities in economic policy measures and legal and other regulations;

(10) to make efforts to assure the remuneration of inventors and innovators in associated labor organizations on a self-management basis, i.e., remuneration will depend upon the savings achieved by applying the innovation in production, and to make the procedure subject to general regulations.

The Yugoslav Federation of Inventors shall fulfill its duties through:

(1) coordination of the activities of the republican and provincial federations in the Federation's basic objectives and tasks;

(2) encouragement of the concluding of social contracts and self-management agreements with a view to promoting all forms of industrial property;

(3) organization of consultations, gatherings, exhibitions and similar activities;

(4) organization of publishing and information activities for its members.

(Statutes, Section III, Aims and Duties, Articles 3 and 5)

### Zaire

(Union des inventeurs zairois (U.I.ZA.))

The Union shall be non-profit-making and shall be non-political.

The purpose of the Union shall be to protect the interests of its members, to protect their inventions, to maintain contacts with international inventors' associations and other institutions appropriate to its development. To assist members to materially realize their inventions for the benefit above all of our country.

(Statutes, Article 1--Title and Article 3--Purpose)

## II. Membership

### China

Whoever accepts the constitution of the China Association of Inventions and satisfies one of the following requirements may be accepted, upon his own application and the recommendation of either the organization he belongs to or any member (or members) of the Association, as a member of the Association, subject to ratification by the Association or the relevant local association.

(1) Winners of the State invention prize or the department (province, city) technical progress prize and patentees.

(2) Those who make creative achievements in scientific and technological research, in design and in production and construction, or who achieve remarkable success in technological innovation, technological cooperation and making rationalization proposals.

(3) Scientists, technicians, workers, peasants, members of the armed forces, students and youngsters who are enthusiastic for invention and innovation and have achieved successes.

(4) Those who are engaged in and support invention and innovation, and devote themselves to the Association's activities.

#### Rights of members:

(1) The right to vote and to stand for election.

(2) The right to make suggestions, supervise and criticize the work of the Association.

(3) The right to participate in relevant activities conducted by the Association and to enjoy priority in obtaining subsidies from the Association.

(4) The right to enjoy priority or preferential treatment in obtaining the publications and materials published by the Association.

(5) The right to apply to the Association for the protection of justified rights and interests against infringement.

#### Duties of members:

(1) Abide by the constitution of the Association.

(2) Pay membership dues according to the regulations.

(3) Carry out resolutions of the Association and undertake work entrusted to them by the Association.

(4) To take an active part in the activities of the Association.

Members have the freedom to withdraw from the Association.

Those who do not comply with the constitution of the Association and those who do not carry out their membership duties will be criticized, educated or even urged to leave the Association.

Foreigners who support the inventive activities of our country may become special invited members of the Association.

(Statutes, Chapter 2--  
Membership, items 4-8)

### Côte d'Ivoire

APII is open to inventors and innovators of Côte d'Ivoire or resident in Côte d'Ivoire and to any natural or legal person concerned with promoting inventions and innovations within the country.

APII comprises honorary members, benefactor members, ordinary members and associate members. Honorary members are those who have rendered services reported to the Association. They are exempted from the membership fee. Ordinary or active members are those who have undertaken to pay an annual membership fee laid down by the General Assembly. Benefactor members are those persons who pay an annual membership fee greater than the preceding one, which is also laid down by the General Assembly. A special category of associate members is foreseen.

(Statutes, Articles 6 and 7--  
Membership)

### Denmark

The membership consists of inventors, industrialists and other persons, including legal persons, wanting to further the objectives of the Association.

Danish and foreign associations, unions, etc., can be admitted as group members on application to the Association.

A group membership is admitted to the annual meeting with up to five persons, but with only one vote.

Persons that are members of the board or otherwise take part in the leadership of group members cannot under any circumstances occupy seats in the leadership of DaFFO.

The board can nominate honorary members. Honorary members have rights as other members, but pay no dues.

(Statutes, Article 4--  
Membership)

Members who have not paid by February 1 shall be requested to pay within three weeks. In case of non-payment, another month of warning is given by registered mail. After that, non-payment will lead to loss of membership.

(Statutes, Article 5--Economy,  
5.1--Dues)

### Finland

The ordinary, voting membership of the Organization shall be composed of legally competent associations which have been accepted as members by a meeting of the Organization at the proposal of the Executive Board.

Associations wishing to become members shall make written application to the Organization and, at the same time, submit their rules for the approval by the Organization. Should a member association wish to amend its rules, the amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Board of the Organization before registration.

In addition, the Organization can have:

- (a) supporting members, which can be private persons, legally competent corporations or foundations which support the activities and aims of the Organization and which are nominated by the Executive Board of the Organization;
- (b) honorary members who shall be distinguished private persons who have rendered services in fields represented by the Organization to whom honorary membership can be extended by invitation of a meeting of the Organization. Such invitations shall be supported by not less than 3/4 of the votes cast;

- (c) corresponding members, which shall be experts active at home or abroad in fields represented by the Organization, or persons or corporations practising invention which can be invited as corresponding members by a meeting of the Organization at the proposal of the Executive Board;
- (d) persons, members of the Governing Council, who shall be appointed by a meeting of the Organization at the proposal of the Executive Board.

A member wishing to resign from the Organization shall give notice in writing to the Executive Board or the chairman thereof or orally, to be recorded in the minutes of a meeting of the Organization. The obligations of a resigning member to the Organization shall cease from the start of the following calendar year.

If a member has harmed the Organization or materially hindered the realization of its aims or otherwise acted in a manner unworthy of the trust and respect of the Organization, the member can be suspended or expelled from the Organization. Decisions regarding suspension or expulsion shall be made by a meeting of the Organization at two consecutive meetings held at an interval of not less than one month. A member who, for two consecutive years, fails to pay the membership fees, shall be considered expelled by decision of the Executive Board, and written notification thereof shall be given to the member concerned.

(Rules, Rule 4--Membership,  
and Rule 6--Resignation,  
suspension and expulsion)

### Germany

The members of the Society may be ordinary or supporting members. Ordinary membership of the Society is restricted to those legal persons whose tasks include the promotion of inventive activity.

Supporting membership of the Society is also open to other legal or natural persons or firms. The application for membership is to be made in writing to the Committee.

The Committee may only take unanimous decisions on applications for membership and is not required to communicate any grounds for refusal to the applicant.

Membership shall terminate on voluntary resignation, on removal from the list of members, on exclusion or on death.

(Statutes, Article 3--  
Acquisition and  
Loss of Membership)

## Morocco

Active members shall be:

- natural persons of Moroccan nationality, whether resident in Morocco or not, who are owners of an industrial property title--patent or industrial design--issued by the competent Moroccan authorities or recognized by Moroccan law or whose capacity as inventor is expressly stated on the patent;

- natural persons of foreign nationality resident in Morocco who hold an industrial property title--patent or industrial design--issued by the competent Moroccan authority or recognized by Moroccan law or whose capacity as inventor is expressly stated on a patent.

The title of member of honor may be awarded as a distinction to any natural or legal person not a member of the Association who has rendered eminent services to the Association.

The title of honorary member may be awarded to any active member of the Association whose experience and capabilities may contribute to the development of the Association.

Those persons who satisfy the following conditions may become members:

- meet the conditions laid down in Articles 5 and 6;
- be approved by the National Board on a favorable opinion by the Membership Committee.

The members of the Association shall be required to comply with the Statutes and Regulations of the Association and to pay their membership fees. They shall inform the National Board of any changes concerning their industrial property titles.

Members of honor may attend general meetings in an observer capacity.

Honorary members may attend general meetings in a consultative capacity.

Membership of the Association shall terminate:

- on resignation, to be submitted in writing;
- on exclusion decided by the National Board for non-payment of fees in two consecutive years or for serious reasons; the member concerned shall have first been invited to furnish explanations, save in event of appeal to the General Assembly.



Members who resign or who are excluded may in no case claim a share in the assets of the Association nor the refund of their membership fees or of any payments whatsoever.

(Statutes, Chapter II--Active Members; Members of Honor; Honorary Members; Conditions of Membership, Resignation and Exclusion of Members; Rights and Obligations of Members; Membership Fees, Articles 5 to 10)

### Norway

NOF has individual members, company members and honorary members.

Applications for membership are considered by the Board.

Inventors, persons who support the aims of NOF, and persons who have evidenced an interest in creativity may become individual members.

Company members are expected to show a positive attitude to NOF.

Honorary members are appointed by the Board on personal merit in the support of NOF, creativity as such or technical achievement.

The Board can exclude a member, by unanimous vote, if his conduct is considered to harm NOF.

(Statutes, Article 2--  
Membership)

### Philippines

All members of the Society, except the honorary members, shall pay each and once only, an entrance fee of P5.00.

- (a) REGULAR - A person who pays an annual fee of P20.00 if paid in one sum, P12.00 if paid every six months, or P2.25 if paid monthly, who can show a certificate of a patent of his own or of a joint authorship or ownership, either in the Philippines or abroad and who has been an ASSOCIATE MEMBER of the Society for at least one year; provided that these requirements do not apply to existing and regular members who became regular members one year before this amendment;

Amendment by addition:

A regular member who is certified to be in good standing in form of FIS identification card issued annually to him shall enjoy the right to be officially and professionally addressed as INVENTOR (INVR.) by his fellow inventors and by the entire Philippine Society;

- (b) ASSOCIATE - An inventor, innovator or designer who enters the Society for the first time and who pays annual dues equal to the amount paid by the regular members;
- (c) INDUSTRIAL/DONATING - A firm or person who is interested in the promotion of inventors and their inventions and pays an annual fee of P1,000.00;
- (d) HONORARY - A person of any nationality who has an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of local inventions may be accepted as honorary member upon the unanimous vote of the Board. He is not required to pay any fee. He may attend any or all sessions of the Society's Convention without the right to vote.

Membership in the Society may be terminated:

- (a) by the death or total incapacity of the member;
- (b) by voluntary resignation;
- (c) by expulsion for conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Society and the welfare of the members.

A member may be expelled from the Society:

- (a) when, after proper investigation by the Executive Committee, he is found to be acting against the interests or the harmony of the members;
- (b) when he is found to be taking advantage of his connection with the Society to further the interests of other societies or organizations which are hostile to and not in consonance with the aims and interests of this Society;
- (c) other actions inimical to the interests and welfare of the Society and its members.

(Constitution and amended  
By-Laws, Article V--Sections  
5, 7, 8)

## Sweden

SUF has primary members, secondary members, supporting members, and honorary members.

Membership must be approved by the board.

Membership is obtained when the annual fee has been paid.

A member who has proved himself to be unworthy of membership of the Association can be expelled by a unanimous vote of the board.

Primary membership of the Association is open to inventors, and also to other persons who are believed to promote the objectives of the Association as well as persons having shown insight in innovative activities. The board of the Association can invite for membership persons who have made considerable contributions to inventing activity.

Secondary membership is open to members of local societies which have been registered as Clubs in accordance with P.13.

Supporting membership, as well as registration as Club in accordance with P.13, involves the right to individual membership for one named representative without paying any membership fee for this person.

At the board's discretion, a person can be elected honorary member if he has rendered special services to the Association or in other ways encouraged inventor activities, or has himself made inventions which have substantially advanced the development of technology.

(Statutes, Article P.2--  
Membership)

## Switzerland

The Association shall comprise active members, supporting members and honorary members.

(a) Natural persons and legal entities of any nationality, residing in Switzerland or abroad and engaging in inventive activity, may become active members. The following shall be considered inventive activity:

- (i) a previous, present or future activity in the field of inventions;

- (ii) ownership of one's own patents or of acquired patents.

Members resident abroad shall not be bound to join a section, in which case they shall pay only the central contribution.

Active members shall have the right to vote in all ballots and elections with the exception of those at the Assembly of Delegates, at which that right is reserved for the delegates themselves. They shall have the right to propose motions to the Assembly of Delegates and shall be eligible to all the posts within the Association.

(b) The following may become supporting members: all natural persons or legal entities residing in Switzerland or abroad and wishing to afford the Association specific assistance in its work. They shall pay annual contributions in an amount at least double that of the usual contributions to the Central Association. Supporting members shall be treated in the same way as active members.

(c) Honorary members: honorary membership may be conferred on legal entities that have done particular service to the Association or to the field of inventions. A request to that end shall be addressed by the section committee to the Central Committee for consideration by the Assembly of Delegates.

(d) Admission: the Central President, the section presidents and the Central Secretariat shall be authorized to consider applications for admission and to admit the applicant to the Association. The applicant shall be admitted if his membership is warranted.

Every member residing in Switzerland shall belong to a section of his choice.

(e) Departure: departure at the end of a calendar year shall be notified to the Central Secretariat in writing by November 1 at the latest. Otherwise, the member shall be liable for the contribution for the following year.

(f) Exclusion: members of a section who act in a manner contrary to the interests of the Association may be excluded by the Section Committee or, at the request of the latter, by the Central Committee by virtue of a majority decision of two-thirds of those members present who have the right to vote. Members not belonging to any section may be excluded directly by the Central Committee. The person concerned shall be invited by registered letter to the relevant meeting of the Committee. If the person concerned fails to take part in the discussion, the result thereof shall be communicated to him by registered letter. Exclusion shall be final. Legal remedies shall not be available.

(g) Rights and duties of members: members shall be obliged to safeguard and further the interests of the Association. Members have the right to seek the Association's advice on problems concerning patents, licensing and contracts and also on technical and general problems in the field of inventions.

(Statutes, Article 3--  
Membership)

### Yugoslavia

The Yugoslav Association of Innovators and Authors of Technical Improvements of Yugoslavia (hereinafter referred to as "the Yugoslav Association of Inventors") is an organization of federations of inventors and authors of technical improvements in the socialist republics and the socialist autonomous provinces voluntarily associated for the purposes of undertaking joint action on the implementation of development programs, promotion of innovative activities and protection of industrial property rights.

(Statutes, Part I--General  
Principles)

For the purposes of coordinating general policy to develop and promote innovative activities and to implement jointly defined duties and policies, as well as to establish basic guidelines for international policy and cooperation in the fields of transfer of technology and innovative activities, the associated federations of inventors in the socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces shall jointly constitute the Yugoslav Association of Innovators and Authors of Technical Improvements.

(Statutes, Part IV--  
Association, Article 7)

### Zaire

(1) Inventors possessing a Zaire patent guaranteed by the World Intellectual Property Organization, abbreviated WIPO, in respect of its novelty shall be effective members after examination of their documents by the Executive Committee.

(2) Effective members may alone have the right to vote and to be elected in the Union.

(3) Effective membership may be lost by:

- resignation submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of the Union;
- prohibition decided by the majority of the effective members, following three warnings that he should remedy his fault; he will then become a passive member;
- definitive departure from Zaire.

(4) Inventors possessing a Zaire patent that is not guaranteed by WIPO shall be accepted in the Union as observer members.

(Statutes, Article 5--  
Membership)

### III. Local Branches or Sections

#### China

In provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government, regions and cities, local associations may be established, which will be under the direction of the Association; with the consent of the local association, grass-roots units can set up subassociations or invention groups.

(Statutes, Chapter 3--  
Organization, Item 13)

#### Denmark

Local sections of DaFFO can be established anywhere in the country. A member of DaFFO can only be associated with one local section, but can attend any announced local meeting any place in the country.

Every local section shall elect a president and a vice-president. The president of any local section having a minimum of 25 members are founding members of the board of the Association.

The local section decides on its own statutes within the framework of the statutes of the Association. The statutes shall be recorded and a copy sent to the bulletin for publication.

Local sections of 10 or more members receive, without request, 20% of the dues paid to the Association by the members of the local section.

(Statutes, Article 11--Local sections; 11.1--Establishing; and 11.3--Economy)

### Morocco

In accordance with Article 4, the Association may establish regional sections.

The regional sections shall be created by a decision of the General Meeting.

(Statutes, Articles 17 and 18--Regional Sections)

### Norway

Local branches of the association can be established in any department (fylke) of the country.

Each branch elects a President and at least three other officials to its committee.

The local branch adopts statutes compatible with the statutes of NOF.

The branch association is juridically independent of NOF.

The branch association holds its own meetings, but cannot act on behalf of NOF or decide in its name.

All members of the branch are also members of NOF and pay their fees to their local association.

The branch can request a special fee to cover branch expenses.

Grants to the branch by NOF may be given upon written request.

The President of a branch association with more than 15 members has a seat on the council of NOF.

(Statutes, Article 10--Local Branches)

## Sweden

An association working with matters within SUF's field of interest and having at least 10 members within a limited geographical area (normally a community) may, upon application, be registered as a Club by decision of the Board of the Association.

Economic means for Club activities are granted to Clubs which, before January 31, submit to the secretariat an annual report and a plan for the coming year's activities. The amount of money in SEK per primary member is fixed yearly by the Board of the Association.

The amount to be paid to a Club is calculated on the number of primary SUF-members per December 31. In addition to this, a Club may, upon application and examination by the Board of the Association, be granted extra means for its activities.

A Club having more than 15 primary SUF members by December 31 is entitled to send one representative to the SUF advisory Committee.

Clubs in a region of the country can cooperate to form a Regional Unit.

Clubs wishing to register a Regional Unit for regional cooperation should send an application to the Board of the Association who, if their decision is affirmative, will define the area for the Regional Unit to work in. After the decision of the Board of the Association, all registered Clubs within the region are invited to join the regional cooperation.

A Club cannot be forced to join a Regional Unit.

The guidelines for the cooperation are drawn up by the cooperating Clubs.

A Regional Unit should select a board consisting of at least three members who all should be primary members of SUF.

The activities and plans of the Regional Unit should, each year, be reported to the secretariat of the Association before January 31.

The Regional Units have their own meetings but do not make decisions or take action in the name of the Association.

A Regional Unit may, after application and examination by the Board of the Association, be granted funds for its activities.



The Board of the Association may strike from the Register a Regional Unit which shows an unsatisfactory level of activities.

(Statutes, Articles P.13--  
Clubs, and P.14--Regional  
Units)

### Switzerland

The members of the Association, in agreement with the Central Committee, may establish regional or local sections. The Central Committee shall ensure judicious geographical demarcation in this connection.

The organization of sections shall conform to the provisions of the Law on Associations. The regulations of the sections shall come into effect after having been approved by the Central Committee. Efforts shall be made to standardize the regulations of the sections. Local or professional groups without section regulations shall form "local groups."

In addition to the central contribution, the Section shall collect a section contribution the amount of which shall be fixed by the general assembly of the section.

Should a section be disbanded, the remaining members shall be free to join a neighbouring section.

(Statutes, Articles 5--  
Organization, and 6--  
The Sections)

## IV. Financial Resources

### China

In order to support the extension and application of inventions and inventive achievements, arouse the zeal of masses to participate in inventive and creative activities, the China Association of Inventions will build up the invention funds (fund management method will be worked out separately).

#### Sources of funds:

- (1) membership dues,

(2) the State's subsidy,

(3) contributions by both domestic and foreign relevant entities, organizations and individuals,

(4) raised by the Association.

**Expenditure:**

(1) invention fund payments,

(2) expenses for various activities of the Association,

(3) expenses for publishing newspapers, magazines and materials.

(Statutes, Chapter 4--Funds,  
Items 14-16)

**Côte d'Ivoire**

The financial means of achieving the aims of AIPI are obtained from:

- entrance fees and annual membership fees of the members as defined in Article 7;
- gifts from private individuals or companies;
- subsidies.

(Statutes, Article 8--  
Financial Resources)

**Denmark**

The yearly dues follow the calendar year. They are for personal members DKr 250. For legal persons they are DKr 1,000.

Persons more than 65 years of age and young people during their education pay only DKr 125. The Board may reduce the dues for others on request.

For group members, the dues are decided after negotiation with the Board.

Beyond the dues, the Board may solicit contributions to the association from public funds, business, institutions, legacies foundations and private persons, including members, and provided such contributions do not entail conditions beyond the object of the Association.

The Board can agree to place expertise or negotiate such expertise in return for definite and limited tasks.

(Statutes, Article 5--Economy;  
5.1--Dues; 5.2--Other Income)

Local sections of 10 or more members receive, without request, 20% of the dues paid to the Association by the members of the local section.

(Statutes, Article 11--Local  
Sections; 11.2--Economy)

### Finland

The Organization can also arrange collections, lotteries and the sale of addresses with the appropriate permission, and own fixed assets.

(Rules, Rule 3--Object and  
Activities)

Member associations and supporting members shall be liable to pay the Organization an annual fee which shall comprise a basic fee the same for all and, in addition, for member associations, a membership fee proportional to the number of members the association has, notwithstanding which no fee shall be levied in respect of life members of member associations.

Honorary and corresponding members and personal members of the Governing Council shall be exempt from the annual fees.

(Rules, Rule 5--Membership  
Fees)

## Germany

The amount of the fees for ordinary members and the entrance fee shall be determined by the General Meeting.

The membership fee for supporting members will be agreed between the Committee and the applicant.

(Statutes, Article 4--  
Membership Fees)

The financial means of the Society may only be used for purposes that are in accordance with the Statutes. The members shall receive no payments from the financial means of the Society.

No member shall have a claim to the assets of the Society, to the payment of excess amounts or similar benefits, nor claim to repayment of fees, donations or other payments or return of any services provided on behalf of the Society, either during the period of membership or after termination.

(Statutes, Article 6--Assets  
of the Society)

## Morocco

The resources of the Association shall derive from:

### (A) The National Office

- 50% of the revenue from membership fees,
- subsidies granted by the societies,
- gifts, legacies and donations of all kinds,
- any profit lawfully obtained in the management of assets.

### (B) The Offices of the Regional Sections

- 50% of the revenue from the fees of members of the regional section,
- any revenue lawfully obtained from the management of assets,
- any subsidies granted by the National Office.

These association funds shall be used to cover the expenses of the Association. They may also be used to maintain movable and fixed assets, or to pay for technical work, for staff, to cover publication costs and overheads of any kind. The accounts shall be drawn up each year fifteen days prior to the date of the General Assembly and shall be available to members at the headquarters.

With the authorization of the President, the General Treasurer shall invest available funds; such investments shall be in annuities or stocks guaranteed by the State.

(Statutes, Chapter VII--  
Association Funds, Articles  
44 and 45)

### Norway

The fee is decided by the General Assembly (G.A.).

Honorary members pay no fees.

Company member fee is decided by the G.A.

Persons with membership of three years duration or more can retain their membership without fee at retirement age.

The Board can exempt from fee, wholly or in part, upon application and documentation of need.

Non payment leads to termination of membership.

(Statutes, Article 3--  
Membership fee)

All members of the branch are also members of NOF and pay their fees to their local association.

The branch can request a special fee to cover for branch expenses.

Grants to the branch by NOF may be given upon written request.

(Statutes, Article 10--Local  
branches)

### Philippines

All members of the Society, except the Honorary members, shall pay each and once only, an entrance fee of P5.00.

- (a) REGULAR--A person who pays an annual fee of P20.00 if paid in one sum, P12.00 if paid every six months, or P2.25 if paid monthly, who can show a certificate of a patent of his own or of a joint authorship or ownership, either in the

Philippines or abroad and who has been an ASSOCIATE MEMBER of the Society for at least one year; provided that these requirements do not apply to existing and regular members who became regular members one year before this amendment;

- (b) ASSOCIATE--An inventor, innovator or designer who enters the Society for the first time and who pays annual dues equal to the amount paid by the regular members;
- (c) INDUSTRIAL/DONATING--A firm or person who is interested in the promotion of inventors and their inventions and pays an annual fee of P1,000.00;
- (d) HONORARY-- A person of any nationality who has an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of local inventions may be accepted as honorary member upon the unanimous vote of the Board. He is not required to pay any fee. He may attend any or all Sessions of the Society's Convention without the right to vote.

(Constitution and By-Laws,  
Article V, Section 5.)

### Sweden

The annual fees for primary members and secondary members are set by the annual meeting.

The annual fees for supporting members and clubs are set by the Board, in each individual case.

Primary members over the age of 65 who have been members for at least 10 years receive, upon request, a 50% reduction of the annual fee.

Honorary members pay no annual fees.

Persons who have been invited to membership by the Board of the Association can be exempted by the Board from paying the annual fee.

Economic means for Club activities are granted to Clubs which, before January 31, submit to the secretariat an annual report and a plan for the coming year's activities. The amount of money in SEK per primary member is fixed yearly by the Board of the Association.

The amount to be paid to a Club is calculated on the number of primary SUF members per December 31. In addition to this, a Club may, upon application and examination by the Board of the Association, be granted extra means for its activities.

(Statutes, Articles P.3--  
Fees, and P.13--Club)

### Switzerland

The necessary resources for the fulfilment of the Association's aims shall be collected from:

- (a) ordinary annual contributions;
- (b) extraordinary contributions;
- (c) donations or other subsidies;
- (d) the sale of printed matter of the Association or of previously purchased printed matter;
- (e) participation in the cost of work beyond the call of duty.

The assets of the Association and its sections shall be the sole resources for meeting the financial commitments of the Association and its sections. Commitments incurred by sections that exceed the resources of the section concerned shall be submitted to the Central Committee for approval.

Contributions shall consist of a central contribution and a section contribution. The amount of the central contribution shall be set every year by the Assembly of Delegates. The section contribution shall be set by the general assembly of the section.

(Statutes, Article 4--  
Finance, Contributions)

### United Kingdom

(The Institute of Patentees and Inventors (IPI))

The Council, with the consent of a General Meeting of the Institute, may, from time to time, fix the amount of the entrance fee and annual subscription. The Council may, at their discretion, elect any person a life member of the Institute on payment of a sum to be fixed by the Council from time to time. Such life member, upon election, shall be subject to Article 23 and to all regulations (other than annual subscription) applying to other members of the Institute.

The Institute may receive donations from any member or other person or persons, but no financial benefit shall be conferred upon the donor by reason of any such donation.

The entrance fee and/or annual subscription shall be payable immediately on election and, if not so paid, the Council may, at their discretion, cancel such election and,

thereupon, such newly elected person or corporation shall cease to be a member. All annual subscriptions are payable on the first day of January each year.

(Articles of Association,  
Subscriptions, Articles 17-19)

### Yugoslavia

The Yugoslav Association of Innovators and Authors of Technical Improvements shall obtain its revenue in accordance with the principles regarding financing of social organizations in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Associations's revenue shall consist of:

- membership, fees,
- contributions from the federations of the socialist republics and socialist autonomous provinces,
- interest on savings,
- revenue from sale of publications,
- other sources.

(Statutes, Section XII--  
Financial and Material  
Activities, Articles 44  
and 46)

### Zaire

(1) Effective members shall be required to pay a monthly membership fee to be determined in the internal rules of the Union. Such contribution shall not be refunded.

(2) The successors in title of a deceased member shall directly cover the invention of the deceased person within the association and shall be entitled to a vote as effective members but shall not be referred to as inventors. They shall support all the works of the deceased person.

(Statutes, Article 6,  
Membership Fees)



**PART III**

**STATUTES  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
INVENTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (IFIA)**

**ARTICLE 1**

**Definition**

This Federation is an unincorporated body without separate legal entity in any country.

**Name and Location**

The name of the organization shall be the International Federation of Inventors' Associations.

The Office of the Federation will be situated in London, Great Britain or elsewhere as the General Assembly may decide.

**ARTICLE 2**

**Objects of the Federation**

The objects of the Federation are:

1. To establish, improve the status of and promote cooperation between inventor associations in different countries (or persons acting in place thereof).
2. To collect information about the state of affairs and practical conditions relating to inventors and inventions in different countries and to disseminate such information among members.
3. To study national laws and international conventions including proposals for their amendment with the object of reforming them in accordance with the continuous changes in the innovation field and with due consideration to the rights of the inventor, and to intervene in national and international proceedings for the purpose of achieving such reform.
4. To increase the knowledge and understanding by private individuals and government bodies of the importance and influence of inventors and invention, and to speak with the common voice of the members in all matters relating to the above objects.

5. To communicate with any government or public body, and to cooperate with them or any other Institution, Association or person, for any purpose inducive to the attainment of the aforementioned objects.
6. Otherwise to represent common interests of inventors in the international field.

### ARTICLE 3

#### Members

- (a) Members of the Federation can be full members, candidate members, collaborating members or corresponding members.

Full members will have voting status and will normally be national associations the aims and activities of which correspond broadly to those of the Federation and the statutes of the Federation.

Candidate members will not be voting members and will normally be associations in the early stages of development.

Corresponding members will not be voting members and will normally be individuals or associations which may or may not be involved with innovation as such.

Collaborating members will not be voting members and will normally be associations with whom the Federation can with mutual advantage be associated.

- (b) Exceptionally, and only where no suitable association exists, personal members, acting in a similar capacity, or temporarily acting pending formation of a national association, may be admitted for a period of one year at a time.

### ARTICLE 4

#### Admission to Membership

- (a) Membership of the Federation shall comprise its founder members and any new members admitted by decision of the General Assembly.
- (b) The Executive Committee is authorised to admit new members of all grades and to establish collaboration relationships with other organisations or persons.

## ARTICLE 5

### Cessation of Membership

1. Resignation of membership shall be notified in writing to the Secretariat with six months' notice, to become effective in June or December. This resignation shall be accepted provided that all obligations have been honoured.
2. The General Assembly may expel a member which or who does not fulfil its or his obligations according to the Statutes and regulations from time to time promulgated by the Federation, and which or who does not remedy such default within six months' time after being formally called upon so to do.

## ARTICLE 6

### General Assembly

The Federation shall be governed by a General Assembly operating through an Executive Committee, the General Assembly being composed of a delegation of not more than three delegates from each country one of whom shall be the head delegate, and not more than three observers, who shall not have the right to speak in the Assembly, but an observer may exceptionally have the right to speak by request if the Assembly agrees. Each country shall have one vote.

Candidate and corresponding members and the collaborating organizations may each send not more than two observers to the General Assembly.

In cases exceptionally of more than one full member from a country each of such members shall be entitled to appoint up to three delegates.

## ARTICLE 7

### Duties of General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of the Federation. Its duties are:

1. To elect a President and one or more Vice-Presidents. If those nominated are not delegates, election must be by a unanimous vote.
2. To appoint a Chairman of the General Assembly, a Chairman of the Executive Committee, a Secretary General and any other officers that are deemed necessary.

3. To appoint and/or ratify appointments made by the Executive Committee, of persons as representatives of the Federation at national or international conferences, committees and congresses.
4. To admit and/or ratify admission of members and expel members.
5. To determine the general policy and programme strategy for the Federation, consider, approve and adopt financial plans and budgets covering the period to the next General Assembly, determine the annual subscription policies, and supervise the Federation's finances.
6. To consider the reports of the Executive Committee and other committees, consider the Secretary General's report, consider the financial situation of the Federation.
7. To act generally on behalf of the Federation.

## ARTICLE 8

### General Assembly Voting

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be reached in the following ways:

#### 1. General Meetings

Every full member shall have one vote. An absent delegation may also send its vote for one or more questions on the Agenda.

All members may participate in the discussions but only full members shall have the right to vote. Personal members may participate in the discussions but shall have no right to vote.

A quorum of three members is necessary to hold a meeting.

Unless otherwise stated in the following section, a resolution is carried if the votes given in favour of it are more than one half of the total number of possible membership votes. When the number of votes in favour is exactly one half of the total General Assembly votes, the presiding Chairman shall have a casting vote.

In questions concerning:

- (a) amendment of the Statutes;
- (b) dissolution of the Federation;
- (c) admission or expulsion of members;

(d) transfer of the right to appoint a head delegate from one member to another, when there are several members from one country (Article 6);

(e) changing the amount of the annual subscription;

the votes in favour must be at least two thirds of the total possible General Assembly votes to carry the resolution. For items (a) or (b) the resolution must be carried on two separate occasions (one of which may be by circular letter) within a period of thirteen months.

## **2. Circular Letter Decisions**

Questions which cannot without detriment be postponed to the next ordinary meeting, and are not considered to justify the costs of an extraordinary meeting, may be decided upon by sending the question to all delegates in writing together with the comments and opinions sent by delegates to the Secretariat in advance. In the accompanying letter, which shall be confirmed by a second letter within one week, it shall be specifically stated that the answers will be treated as a vote. In such a case a decision shall be reached by a majority of votes received.

## **3. Minutes**

Minutes shall be drawn up of all decisions made under subparagraphs (1) and (2) hereof and drafts thereof shall be sent to all delegates. If no objection is raised within two weeks, they shall be signed by the President, and the final Minutes then sent to all members and delegates. In case of objection the Minutes shall be settled and signed at the next meeting.

## ARTICLE 9

### Meetings

The only compulsory meetings of the Federation shall be meetings of the General Assembly which shall be as follows:

1. The Biennial Assembly is to be held in the month of May or such other time as shall be decided by the General Assembly or the Executive Committee. A draft of the Executive Committee's Report/Secretary General's Report and a preliminary agenda shall be sent to the delegates three months in advance. Motions from the delegates must be received by the Secretariat not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting. These motions, with the investigations and comments of the Executive Committee/Secretary General thereon and with information on other questions and the final agenda shall be circulated at least three weeks before the meeting.

Such agenda shall include the election of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Executive Committee/Secretary General's report, the budget of the Federation and any proposed changes in the annual subscription.

2. Extraordinary meetings shall be summoned when the President (or Vice-President on his behalf) deems it necessary or it is demanded in writing by at least half of the delegates. The Executive Committee may submit a report to the President proposing the need for an extraordinary meeting. The summons shall include a preliminary agenda, and the delegates may within one month add further items to the agenda. The final agenda shall be circulated to all delegates not less than three weeks before the meeting.

The place of the next meeting shall be determined by the General Assembly or, failing the General Assembly, by the President on the advice of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE 10

### Committees

The Executive Committee will consist of a Chairman, and four Committee members all elected by the General Assembly. The Secretary General will be an ex-officio member. The period of office for the Chairman will be four years and the term for Committee Members two years. The Executive Committee will have the right to co-opt members if such action is from time to time deemed necessary. The Executive Committee will ensure that the decisions of the General Assembly are carried out within the means of the Federation, will be responsible for the operation of any further committees and working parties of the

Federation, will examine applications for membership to the various membership grades and will have the responsibility of establishing the subscription level for each new member.

The General Assembly may delegate such further powers to the Executive Committee as it thinks fit, with the exception that the right to make decisions in questions concerned in (a), (b), (c) and (d) in so far as it relates to expulsion of members in Article 8 subparagraph 1 may not be delegated. The Executive Committee shall in the exercise of powers so delegated thereto conform to any regulations that may from time to time be imposed upon it by the General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall propose to the General Assembly for ratification thereby the appointments of the Chairman of all such Committees.

## ARTICLE 11

### Secretariat

1. The Federation shall maintain a Secretariat headed by a Secretary General who shall function as the Secretary to the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and to any other bodies that may from time to time be constituted by the General Assembly.
2. The Secretary General shall have the executive responsibility for ensuring that the Secretariat executes the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; providing efficient administrative, organisational and management support to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; and for ensuring that adequate financial controls and procedures prevail.
3. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the preparation of programmes/projects for submission to the General Assembly/Executive Committee; and ensuring efficient communications between the Federation and its members.
4. The Secretary General shall be appointed for a period of four years. It will be the responsibility for the Executive Committee to appoint a replacement or to reappoint as the case may be.
5. The Secretary shall have a fixed address.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **Language**

The official language of the Federation shall be English. All discussions in the General Assembly as well as minutes, documents and reports shall be made in English which also shall be used in all correspondence between the Secretariat and the members.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **Congresses**

When it is found desirable and practically and economically feasible, the General Assembly may arrange congresses in different countries for the discussion of questions of common interest within the realms of the Federation, in order to promote interest in such problems by the public and within the member associations of the Federation.

The theme, programme and organisation of a congress shall be decided upon by the General Assembly.

All members of the member associations shall have the right to attend a congress. In addition, the General Assembly may invite such persons or organisations as it may think fit.

A congress may pass recommendations to the General Assembly but shall have no right to make decisions on behalf of the Federation.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **Obligations of the Member Associations**

It is the duty of any member which is an association:

To send the Secretariat without delay excerpts of minutes--in their native language and in English translation--giving the names of the appointed head delegate and other delegates.

To send before the end of January each year a statement on the number of members in the member association at 1st January.

To send without delay the annual report of the member association in the native language when it has been finally approved, and within two months from the approval a translation in English.

To send without delay any amendments of statutes of the member associations in the native language when it has come into force and within two months from said date a translation in English.



To pay all subscriptions to the Federation which have been duly decided by the General Assembly.

To keep the Secretariat informed within its capacity of any events in its country in the field of inventors and inventions likely to be of major interest.

## ARTICLE 15

### Regional Bodies

Member associations who due to cognate languages, similarity of laws in the invention field, geographical situation or for other reasons may derive advantage of regional co-operation in simpler and less expensive forms, may form a regional body. The Statutes of the Body shall be compatible with the Statutes of this Federation, and shall be communicated to the Federation in the same way as the Statutes of the member associations (see Article 13).

Such bodies shall have no delegate in the General Assembly and no special rights within this Federation.

## ARTICLE 16

### Finance

The mandate as delegate to the General Assembly is honorary and the delegates are not entitled to remuneration or compensation from the Federation. Salaries and compensation for the Executive Committee, Secretary General and the Secretariat shall be decided by the General Assembly with due regard to the means at its disposal.

The subscriptions from the member associations shall be fixed in proportion to the number of members in each member association at 1st January each year, and the subscription for individual members shall be determined by the Executive Committee and submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **Audit**

The General Assembly shall cause accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Federation. Books of Account shall be kept at the offices of the Federation, and shall be open to inspection by members on any day during the usual working hours.

Once at least in every year the Accounts of the Federation shall be examined and the correctness of the Balance Sheet ascertained by one or more Auditors nominated by the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **Amendment of the Statutes**

These Statutes may be amended by a resolution carried by at least two thirds of the total possible General Assembly votes on two separate occasions, (one of which may be by circular letter decision) within a period of thirteen months (see Article 8(2)). Attention shall be specifically drawn to the proposed amendment on the agenda.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **Dissolution of the Federation**

A proposal for the dissolution of the Federation shall be treated in the same way as amendments of the Statutes. The assets may not be divided among the members, but with the records shall be made over to international organisations or institutions with approved objectives in the field of invention to be used in accordance with conditions laid down by the General Assembly (see Article 8(1)(b)).

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE AFRICAN FEDERATION OF  
INVENTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (AFIA)**

**ARTICLE 1**

**Name**

- (1) The name of the Federation shall be:
- in English: African Federation of Inventors' Associations,  
in French: Fédération africaine des associations des  
inventeurs,  
in Arabic: الاتحاد الأفريقي لجمعيات المخترعين  
in Portuguese: Federação Africana de Associações de Inventores
- (2) In this Constitution, the Federation is referred to as "the Federation."
- (3) The acronym of the Federation, in all languages, shall be "AFIA."

**ARTICLE 2**

**Headquarters**

The headquarters of the Federation shall be at the address of the President, or at any other place specified by the General Assembly.

**ARTICLE 3**

**Aims**

The Federation shall be non-political and non-denominational. It shall pursue no lucrative aims.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### Objectives at the African Level

- (1) To introduce, improve and promote cooperation between the inventors' associations of African countries (or the persons who serve as such).
- (2) To encourage the creation of inventors' associations in African countries in which no such associations yet exist.
- (3) To initiate relations with African inventors resident outside Africa.
- (4) To ensure cooperation between the Federation and African professional associations representing other interested circles, such as engineers, scientists, researchers, lawyers, patent agents and representatives of industry.
- (5) To promote the adoption or revision of legislation on inventions that is favorable to inventors.
- (6) To encourage, promote and popularize inventive activity as an important factor of scientific and technological progress and socio-economic development.
- (7) To arrange for public recognition of the merits of inventors, notably through the grant of rewards and prizes.
- (8) To promote and facilitate technology transfer, notably between African countries.
- (9) To support all action taken by the authorities in connection with the promotion of innovation and the recognition of the rights of inventors.

#### ARTICLE 5

##### Objectives at the International Level

- (1) To represent and defend the common interests of African inventors.
- (2) To promote relations with comparable regional and international federations, in particular the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA).
- (3) To maintain close cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

- (4) To contribute, through the agency of inventors' associations, towards bringing peoples closer together in the interest of a future of peace and prosperity.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Membership**

- (1) Members of the Federation will normally be African national inventors' associations with aims and activities comparable to its own and statutes compatible with its own.
- (2) As an exceptional measure, and only where no suitable association exists in an African country, private persons individually exercising comparable functions or doing so temporarily pending the formation of a national association may be admitted to membership for periods of one year at a time, as observers without the right to vote.
- (3) African or international personalities may be made honorary members without the right to vote.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Termination of Membership**

- (1) Any member may resign its membership by giving notice in writing to the President of the Federation. Such resignation shall take effect on receipt of the notice.
- (2) Any member that has not paid its annual dues for two consecutive calendar years and, after having been given notice in writing to pay the said arrears, does not then do so shall lose its membership on the first day of the calendar year following the said two years. It shall be reinstated as a member on payment of the said arrears.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Assembly**

- (1) The Assembly shall consist of representatives of the members of the Federation. Observers and honorary members shall be invited to attend without the right to vote.

- (2) The Assembly shall be in charge of all the affairs of the Federation except those specifically entrusted to the Executive Committee, the President or the Treasurer. The Assembly shall, in particular:
  - (i) adopt the program and annual budget and set the amount of the annual membership dues;
  - (ii) elect, from among the members, a president and the other members of the Executive Committee.
- (3) The Assembly may also:
  - (i) conclude cooperation agreements with the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), or public or private African organizations, institutions or associations dealing with matters in the field of inventions and inventors;
  - (ii) adopt amendments to the Constitution of the Federation;
  - (iii) decide to dissolve the Federation.
- (4)(a) The Assembly shall meet in ordinary session once in every calendar year, at the date and place decided by the Executive Committee, unless the Executive Committee decides that, because of special circumstances, the said session shall not be convened. If an ordinary session of the Assembly is not held, the Executive Committee shall carry out the tasks conferred to it by Article 9(2) and those mentioned in paragraph (2)(i).
- (b) At each ordinary session, at least one matter of general interest to all inventors of Africa shall be discussed.
- (c) The President shall convene the Assembly in extraordinary session at the request of the Executive Committee or of at least one-half of the members of the Federation.
- (5) Each country shall have one vote in the Assembly. Where there are two or more members for one country, the most senior member shall represent the country unless another member is designated by the members of that country.
- (6) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (7), the Assembly shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes. In the case of equally divided votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

- (7) (a) The adoption of amendments to this Constitution (see Article 8(3)(ii)) and the dissolution of the Federation (see Article 8(3)(iii)) shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.
  - (b) Proposals for the amendment of this Constitution or the dissolution of the Federation shall be communicated by the President to the members of the Federation at least two months in advance of their consideration by the Assembly.
- (8) The Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure and may amend them.

## ARTICLE 9

### Executive Committee

- (1) The Executive Committee, unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, shall be composed of the following persons:
- (i) the President;
  - (ii) the Vice-President;
  - (iii) two Secretaries-General;
  - (iv) the Treasurer;
  - (v) the Mission Officer.
- (2) The Executive Committee shall:
- (i) implement the decisions of the General Assembly;
  - (ii) decide on the admission of members, observers and honorary members (see Article 6);
  - (iii) examine the draft program and budget prepared by the President and make such recommendations thereon as it deems desirable.
- (3) (a) The Executive Committee shall meet once a year in ordinary session on convocation by the President.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall meet in extraordinary session on convocation by the President, either on his own initiative or at the request of two of its members.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the case of equally divided votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

## ARTICLE 10

### Officers

- (1) The Executive Committee elected at the first session of the Assembly (which shall be regarded as an ordinary session of the Assembly) shall remain in office until the end of the second subsequent ordinary session of the Assembly. Thereafter, the mandate of each member of the Executive Committee shall last from the end of the session at which he was elected to the end of the second subsequent ordinary session of the Assembly.
- (2) The President of the Federation shall be the Chairman of the Assembly and of the Executive Committee.
- (3) The President shall attend to the day-to-day business of the Federation. He shall report on the activities of the Federation to each ordinary session of the Assembly, and shall present to it the draft program and budget, together with the recommendations of the Executive Committee (see Article/9(2)(iii)).
- (4) When the President is unable to act, he shall be replaced by the Vice-President.
- (5) The Secretaries-General shall be responsible for the drafting of the minutes of the meetings and for distributing information among the members of the Federation. They assist the President in the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.
- (6) The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting membership dues and administering the finances of the Federation. He shall report to the Assembly on the accounts and the financial status of the Federation.
- (7) The Mission Officer shall be responsible for the implementation of special missions entrusted to him by the President.

## ARTICLE 11

### Resources

- (1) The resources of the Federation shall comprise membership dues and such subsidies and donations in cash, equipment or services as the Executive Committee may accept.
- (2) All expenditure shall require authorization by the President.



**ARTICLE 12**

**Languages**

Documents submitted to the Assembly for consideration and other official communications of the Federation shall be drawn up in English, French and Arabic.

**ARTICLE 13**

**Dissolution**

On dissolution of the Federation, its financial resources shall be transferred to one or more institutions devoted to objectives similar to its own.



**ANNEX**

**List of Countries in Which Associations  
of Inventors have been Established**

Membership in the  
International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA  
and the  
African Federation of Inventors' Associations (AFIA)  
is indicated in brackets

Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Bangladesh (IFIA)  
Belgium (IFIA)  
Bulgaria (IFIA)  
Cameroon (IFIA)  
Canada (IFIA)  
China (IFIA)  
Colombia  
Congo (AFIA)  
Côte d'Ivoire (AFIA) (IFIA)  
Cuba  
Cyprus (IFIA)  
Denmark (IFIA)  
Egypt (AFIA) (IFIA)  
El Salvador  
Finland (IFIA)  
France (IFIA)  
Germany (IFIA)  
Ghana (IFIA)  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Hungary (IFIA)  
Iceland (IFIA)  
Italy  
Japan (IFIA)  
Kenya

Malaysia (IFIA)  
Mexico  
Mongolia  
Morocco (AFIA) (IFIA)  
Netherlands (IFIA)  
Nigeria (IFIA)  
Norway (IFIA)  
Paraguay (IFIA)  
Peru (IFIA)  
Philippines (IFIA)  
Poland (IFIA)  
Portugal (IFIA)  
Republic of Korea  
Senegal (AFIA)  
Singapore (IFIA)  
Soviet Union (IFIA)  
Spain (IFIA)  
Sudan (AFIA) (IFIA)  
Sweden (IFIA)  
Switzerland (IFIA)  
Togo  
Tunisia (AFIA) (IFIA)  
Turkey  
United Kingdom (IFIA)  
United Republic of Tanzania (AFIA)  
United States of America (IFIA)  
Yugoslavia (IFIA)  
Zaire (AFIA) (IFIA)  
Zimbabwe (AFIA) (IFIA)







