

IDC Governance Structure: A Summary

October 2022

1. Background

IDC is a powerful global network of organisations, groups, individuals, as well as representatives of communities impacted by immigration detention, based in over 90 countries. IDC members have a wide range of specialisations related to immigration detention and alternatives to detention, including academia, law, research, policy, direct service, advocacy, and community organising.

IDC staff work nationally and regionally in Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and at the global level. Staff coordinate with members and partners on advocacy, research, coalition and capacity building, as well as create opportunities for national, regional and global collaboration to reduce immigration detention and further rights-based alternatives to detention.

IDC Vision: A world where immigration detention no longer exists and people who migrate live with rights and dignity.

IDC Mission: IDC advocates to secure the human rights of people impacted by and at-risk of immigration detention. In partnership with civil society, UN agencies, and multiple levels of government, we strategically build movements, and influence law, policy and practices to reduce and ultimately end immigration detention and implement rights-based alternatives to detention.

2. IDC Governance Structure

International Detention Coalition (IDC Inc) registered as an Association incorporated in Australia in 2009 under Victorian law (then the Associations Incorporation Act, 1981, now the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012). The IDC Rules set out its governance structure, specifically, the role of the Committee (or Board), voting members (that is, the International Advisory Committee, IAC) and non-voting members (associate members).

In September 2022, IDC registered a legal entity, a foundation, Stichting International Detention Coalition in The Hague, Netherlands. The Board of the Stichting works in cooperation with the Committee to fulfill the vision and mission of IDC.

3. IDC Committee (Board)

The IDC Rules set out the rules for the election, appointment, composition, and function of the Committee.

The IDC Rules state that:

- The Committee controls and directs the Association and the management of its property and affairs;
- The Committee comprises 5-7 members, elected by voting members from amongst its members;
- Committee members serve from the end of the AGM during which they were elected, to the end of the third AGM after their appointment - they can be re-elected;
- Any two voting members may nominate an IAC member to serve as a Committee member, in writing, with the application lodged with the Secretary at least 30 days before the AGM;
- If there are more nominations than vacancies, the balloting lists will be prepared;
- The Committee's officers include: a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer;
- The Committee meets at least four times a year.

4. International Advisory Committee (IAC)

The IDC Rules set out the rules concerning the voting members of IDC, that is, the International Advisory Committee (IAC).

In summary, the IDC Rules state that:

- IAC members are admitted to membership by the Committee through a process of application;
- Membership is non-transferrable;

- IAC members can be an individual or an organisation; organisational members must appoint a Representative;
- No fees are payable by Members unless approved by a General Meeting;
- Each IAC member is entitled to one vote at a General Meeting;
- Membership ceases if the person dies, resigns, is expelled according to the Rules, or becomes untraceable.

In practice:

- The Committee invites individuals and organisations to become voting members of IDC, usually based on the recommendations of IDC team members;
- The IAC is comprised no more than 30 members (to help ensure we can reach quorum in Annual General Meetings);
- Ideally, the nature of expertise within the IAC should reflect the diversity of IDC's broader non-voting membership (associate members), including those representing specialities such as community and grassroots organising, social service provision, legal support and litigation, policy advocacy, academia and research, arts and culture and more. IDC also aims to ensure representation across geographic, thematic, academic, and lived experience expertise. Further, IDC values diversity, equality, and inclusivity, and aims for the IAC to ensure parity among those from underrepresented backgrounds, including but not limited to gender, race, age, sexual orientation, disability, and religion.

In practice, when approving membership, the Committee considers the following:

- IAC members must work on issues relating to immigration detention;
- IAC members must have a demonstrated commitment to the vision, mission, and goals of IDC; and
- Consideration will be given to the representational and strategic needs of the organisation, thematic focus and regional priorities.

IAC members are encouraged to:

- Adhere to the IDC Code of Conduct;
- Provide advice and input on the creation of IDC's strategic plans, policy, advocacy, public statements, major

- initiatives, research, press releases, and selection of priority issues or countries;
- Participation in campaign appeals and actions;
 - Assist in the dissemination of information and resources from IDC to stakeholders in the region;
 - Support with fundraising initiatives or in-kind support;
 - Represent IDC at events and networks;
 - Issue statements and publicly represent IDC when authorized by the Secretariat;
 - Identify and recommend new associate members for the coalition;
 - Respond to Secretariat requests in a timely manner and inform the Secretariat if they are to be unavailable for extended periods.

Meetings

The International Advisory Committee is invited to the Annual General Meeting once a year.

In addition, further thematic or regional or cross-regional forums can be organised to bring IDC membership together, and IAC members are encouraged to participate and support in the development of these spaces.