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Record Group/Collection: Donated Historical Materials
Collection/Office of Origin: Frieden, Lex, Collection
Series: Disability Rights Organizations
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 52060
Folder ID Number: 52060-004

Folder Title:
RI [Rehabilitation International] Matters [1991-1992]

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Proposed Letter

To all National Secretaries of Rehabilitation International.

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to you on behalf of African people with disabilities in regard to the World Assembly and World Congress of Rehabilitation International scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya Sept. 4-5 and Sept 7-11, 1992. It is our understanding that due to various concerns, including that of safety in Kenya, the RI Secretariat, on behalf of the RI Executive Committee, will seek information about your plans for attending this meeting.

We want to strongly emphasize our desire for you to come to Kenya for the RI meetings this September. Your participation in these meetings is of greatest importance to RI and to the future of disabled people in Africa.

We believe that the planned discussions of RI's future can best be held in the context of reality which the developing continent of Africa provides. By coming to Africa, you will better understand the problems and needs of the great majority of people with disabilities in the world who are living in developing countries, and you will have a better impression of the tremendous human potential among disabled people in Africa which you may help to mobilize by your plans and actions.

We also want you to understand very clearly that by coming to Kenya you will have a profound and positive impact on our lives as Africans, and particularly as Africans with disabilities. You will help us direct the attention of our political leaders and policy makers to the very real issues of survival which affect our lives. You will also assist us in raising our status among our families, our friends, and the other members of our community.

The planning for this world meeting has already produced important discussions about policies related to transportation, housing, attendant care, and civil rights for people with disabilities. More tangibly, we now have curb ramps in Nairobi which were built to accomodate you, but which will serve us long after you leave. This is just one example of the kind of good effect which your meeting in Kenya will have and it is this effect which your participation in this meeting will help us carry throughout Africa.

Finally, we are anxious for you to know that we and many of our colleagues have been working for a long time with great anticipation of this event. We are waiting to give you a warm and gracious welcome to Nairobi and to our beautiful continent. We believe you will be safe and we will do everything we can to make you comfortable in Nairobi this September.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have questions about our plans or concerns about accommodations which we have available for you in Nairobi, please feel free to contact us directly.

Yours sincerely,

Moodi Awori
President,
Organization

Joshua Malingua
President,
Organization

FAX



ACROD

ACROD Limited ACN 008 445 485
P.O. Box 60, Curtin, A.C.T. 2605
Telephone (06) 282 4333
Facsimile (06) 281 3488

JB:KM

501/3/2

3 June 1992

VIA FAX: 0015 1 410 965 6503

Ms Ilene Zeitzer
Social Security Administration
Office of Disability
BALTIMORE, MD
USA

Dear Ilene

Thank you for your May letter and I was pleased to see that the Newsletter is coming.

I think I told you earlier that I cannot possibly be Vice-Chairman of the Commission and I have let Risto know that as he also approached me, in fact, I have said to him that it would be far more appropriate if you were in that position. My major problem is that David is already Chairman of the Asia/Pacific Commission so it would be a little bit odd if I was Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

On to the really important things and this is the Nairobi situation. I gather that there is some enormous pressure from the US for the Congress not to be held in Nairobi and frankly most of the Australians that were planning to go would far prefer Dublin or Vienna as a venue. We are also alarmed to hear of the electricity and water situation in Nairobi and I was all set to tick the questionnaire from RI to say "no" to Kenya, however, I have been talking today to John Stott and he has been most persuasive the other way as he feels that this is a most terrible slap in the face for the African members of RI and no doubt we will lose them if the decision goes against Kenya.

John says that it is okay to make a decision like this but not so close to September it is something that should have been done at least at the end of last year.

He also says he has spoken to quite a few disabled delegates about the electricity and water problems and they all feel that this is a decision for the individual whether to take the risk or not. Under the circumstances, and given our championship of John's candidacy for the new President of RI,

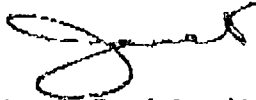
Ms Ilene Zeitser
4 June 1992

2

I am about to try and persuade the other likely Australian
delegates to vote "yes" for Kenya - all very complicated!!

Whatever happens I hope to see you next September.

Yours sincerely



Janet Braithwaite
Executive Director



Rehabilitation International®

FENMORE R. SETON
PRESIDENT

Two Old Orchard Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473 USA
Phone: (203) 281-4448
Fax: (203) 281-0865

June 16, 1992

FAX - CONFIRMED BY MAIL

TO: LEX FRIEDEN

My dear Lex,

I expect that the enclosed letters will come to you as a surprise!

Until about a week ago, I would have thought that there was a very great likelihood that the RI Assembly meeting would be moved from Nairobi to Europe.

But in the meantime:

1. We have received a balanced and reasoned four page report from Tomas Lagerwall who has just returned from three weeks in Kenya. I will send you a copy of that report by mail.

Tomas advises that the Kenyan government will come through with practically all of the monies which they have promised. Also that the Organizing Committee is now operating with an acceptable degree of efficiency.

And Tomas' strong conclusion is that he sees no reason to cancel either the Assembly or the World Congress in Nairobi.

2. Unhappily, there seems to be a widely circulated rumor that a small handful of North Americans are scuttling the Nairobi meetings for their own purposes. This, as you and I know, is untrue ... but it does most unfair and irreparable damage to persons like you and myself and other RI leaders from North America.
3. I perceive a tremendous groundswell of protest that RI is even considering "abandoning" the developing countries ... if it turned that Nairobi was cancelled. This could do the reputation of RI terrific damage in the long run.
4. I have personally searched my conscience and have concluded that the proper and honorable course of action is "DAMN THE TORPEDOES -- FULL SPEED AHEAD!"

You are such a reasoned and understanding individual, Lex. I so hope you concur in what I truly believe is a most ethical and correct decision.

Yours most sincerely,

FENMORE R. SETON, PRESIDENT

Enclosures





Rehabilitation International

Date: 22 June 1992

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: RI Executive Committee

SUBJECT: RI Assembly Meeting and the 17th World Congress

FROM: RI Secretariat

Total number of pages transmitted (including this page): 6

If you do not receive all the pages, please telefax this office immediately: (Fax No. (212) 505-0871.

FAX MESSAGE

The attached communication to the Executive Committee consists of six pages including this cover page. The enclosures are:

1. A one page memorandum of 22 June from RI President Fenmore Seton.
2. A two page memorandum from the Secretary General to all members of the Executive Committee with the responses to the membership questionnaire.
3. A two page letter of appeal from RI President Fenmore Seton to all of the National Secretaries urging their participation in the meetings in Kenya.



Rehabilitation International

June 22, 1992

FAX (as possible) - Confirmed by Air Mail

TO: All Members of the RI Executive Committee

As agreed upon at the Executive Committee Meeting convened in Holland on May 11th, the RI Secretariat has polled all National Secretaries in connection with their plans and preferences for sending delegations to the Kenya Assembly or, instead, changing the venue of the Assembly to Europe.

The results of the poll are enclosed for your examination with this fax/letter. I am delighted to say that it **does** appear at this time that, based on an analysis of the poll figures, RI **will** be able to hold a successful Assembly meeting in Kenya as originally scheduled.

In addition to this good news, we have the new reassuring report (which has already been mailed to each Executive Committee member) from our esteemed Swedish consultant, Mr. Tomas Lagerwall. That report indicates that, based on close to three weeks which he spent in Kenya since our Holland meeting, it is Mr. Lagerwall's reasoned opinion that the Kenyan Organizing Committee is operating on an improved basis and is capable of handling the RI Assembly meeting and World Congress.

In order to complete the procedure decided upon by the Executive Committee, it is now considered necessary to ask each Executive Committee member for a YES or NO vote on continuing with the meetings in Kenya. It is important that your President advise you that, at this stage, we would possibly have no legal grounds to change the arrangements for the World Congress ... for Mr. Lagerwall has assured us that most, if not all, of the 15 million Kenyan shillings promised by the Kenyan government has been or will be paid to the Organizing Committee on or about July 1st.

Your President entreats each and every Executive Committee member to vote YES on the question of proceeding with the meetings in Kenya. For Rehabilitation International is being afforded an unparalleled opportunity to prove our unity of purpose and our dedication to provide important and necessary assistance to the millions of oppressed and forgotten persons with disabilities in Africa and in the developing countries of the World.

Please do telephone or fax your YES or NO vote to the Secretary General at the New York Secretariat within 24 hours, if possible. This is vital for we cannot officially advise all National Secretaries to proceed with plans for Kenya until we have the votes of the RI Executive Committee.

Yours most sincerely,

FENMORE R. SETON, PRESIDENT

Enclosure

25 EAST 21st STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010 U.S.A.

PHONE: (212) 420-1500 / CABLES: INTREHAB / TELEX: 446412 / FAX: (212) 505-0871



Rehabilitation International

MEMORANDUM

TO: RI Executive Committee
FROM: Mrs. Susan R. Hammerman, Secretary General *Susan R. Hammerman*
DATE: 22 June 1992
RE: Response to Membership Questionnaire on 1992 RI Assembly and 17th World Congress

In accordance with the procedure launched by RI President Dr. Fenmore Seton on behalf of the Executive Committee on 21 May 1992, to poll the RI National Secretaries on the participation of member organizations from their countries in the 1992 RI Assembly and 17th World Congress, I am pleased to advise you of the following results:

1. The RI Secretariat received responses from 44 of 88 National Secretaries to the questionnaire by the deadline of 20 June 1992.
2. Is it your preference to retain Nairobi as the venue for the RI 1992 Assembly or to change the venue to a European city?
 - a. 15 National Secretaries expressed the preference to retain Nairobi as the venue for the RI Assembly.
 - b. 16 National Secretaries expressed the preference to move the venue of the RI Assembly to Europe.
 - c. 13 National Secretaries abstained from expressing a preference.
3. If the RI September Assembly venue is changed from Kenya to a European city:
 - a. 35 National Secretaries would attend the RI Assembly if the venue is in Europe.
 - b. The estimated number of members of authorized delegations who would attend the RI Assembly in Europe was 99.
 - c. The estimated number of persons from all countries who would attend the RI meetings if they were in Europe was 205.
4. If the RI September Assembly venue remains in Kenya on the dates previously announced:
 - a. 26 National Secretaries would attend the RI Assembly if the venue remains in Nairobi.
 - b. The estimated number of members of authorized delegations who would attend the RI Assembly in Nairobi was 91.
 - c. The estimated number of persons from all countries who would attend the RI meetings in Kenya was 210. (Please note that this does not include an estimated 500 persons

who the host organization in Kenya estimates would attend in addition to the authorized delegation.)

5. May the RI Executive Committee have permission to make the final decision concerning the venue of the September RI Assembly Meeting and the holding of the World Congress?
 - a. 37 National Secretaries gave permission to the Executive Committee to make the final decision concerning the venue of the 1992 RI Assembly meeting and the holding of the World Congress.
 - b. 5 National Secretaries did not give permission to the Executive Committee to make the final decision.
 - c. 2 National Secretaries abstained.
6. If you wish to review any supporting materials for the analysis of the questionnaire, it is available from the Secretary General upon written request.

FOR URGENT ACTION

Based on these results please advise the Secretary General of RI, if possible by return telefax or telephone response:

YES - if you support the appeal of the RI President Fanmore Seton to hold the 1992 RI Meetings in Kenya as scheduled.

NO - if you do not support the President's appeal.



Rehabilitation International

URGENT!

June 22, 1992

FAX (AS POSSIBLE) - CONFIRMED BY AIR MAIL

**TO: ALL NATIONAL SECRETARIES, ALL COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS
(COPY TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS)**

AS PRESIDENT OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, I MOST SINCERELY APPEAL TO THE RI COMMUNITY TO CONFIRM THAT IT WILL HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, AND THAT IT WILL FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO HOLD THE 1992 RI ASSEMBLY AND WORLD CONGRESS IN NAIROBI IN SEPTEMBER.

When the RI Executive Committee met in Holland on May 11th, there were many arguments pro and con as to whether to move the Assembly venue from Nairobi to Europe. In the end, an unofficial poll of the Executive Committee indicated a lack of consensus on this extremely important question. In the interest of fairness and democracy, the Executive Committee then decided to delegate to your President the responsibility for polling a broad cross section of the RI community ... in an effort to help the Executive Committee reach a reasoned final decision.

At the time of this writing, we are awaiting the final vote from the Executive Committee ... but in good conscience your President cannot delay communicating to his RI colleagues his heartfelt belief that each and every one of us should immediately do everything we can to ensure the largest possible attendance at the Kenya Assembly and World Congress.

At the meeting in Holland in May, your President and the Secretary General requested that Mr. Tomas Lagerwall, our esteemed Consultant to the RI Secretariat, return to Kenya to make a final determination as to the feasibility of continuing with plans for the Nairobi meetings. Mr. Lagerwall has just returned from having spent three weeks in Nairobi ... studying every aspect concerned with our proposed meetings. He has now sent to the Secretariat from his office in Sweden his comprehensive, impartial report which presents a more positive view of the situation in Kenya than the Executive Committee had before it on May 11. His report ends by stating:

"My conclusion is that I see NO reason why the Nairobi meetings should be cancelled. With support from all of us, I am convinced that the 17th RI World Congress can be a milestone in the history of Rehabilitation International which will mark the first time that RI has proven to the World its concern for the millions of persons with disabilities living in developing countries."

Please be aware that the Executive Committee and not least of all your President recognizes that there still remain concerns regarding the political situation and security in Kenya. But such possible risks must be balanced against the clear moral obligation which binds Rehabilitation International to make a determined effort to bring our experience, our encouragement, our expertise and our technology to the countless persons with disabilities in the developing countries.

25 EAST 21st STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010 U.S.A.

PHONE: (212) 420-1500 / CABLES: INTREHAB / TELEX: 446412 / FAX: (212) 505-0871

Page 2

As the National Secretary of Zambia has written to your President:

"We look to Rehabilitation International with pride and confidence in your work towards bringing some measure of relief and happiness to the millions of miserable disabled -- especially in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America -- where these millions daily hunger for food and water to drink and wash; are needy for clothing, medical attention, and shelter; and desperately seek recognition of their personalities as human beings in their own societies, and in the world as a whole."

These words speak powerfully for themselves. It is now up to each one of us, to each and every member of the RI membership, to rally to the aid of those so desperately in need.

We urgently request that all National Secretaries make a renewed effort to bring to the Kenya meetings as many of their colleagues and compatriots as possible. Registrations together with fees should be sent at once to the Secretariat in Nairobi. Please also rush your hotel reservations and deposits to the Nairobi Secretariat ... unless you prefer to book your hotels for Kenya through your own local Travel Agent. **IMPORTANT:** In that case your Travel Agent must definitely advise the hotels concerned that the reservations are for participants in the Kenya World Congress.

The correct address, phone and FAX, for the Nairobi Secretariat is:

The Secretariat for the Seventeenth RI World Congress
APDK House P. O. Box 56643 Nairobi, KENYA

Telephone: 254 2 332 227

FAX: 254 2 219 541

National Secretaries are also urged to explore the possibility of obtaining funds to enable individuals from developing countries to attend the Kenya World Congress. Further information on this can be obtained from the Nairobi Secretariat.

Your President and his wife already have our airline tickets to Kenya, and our Congress registration and hotel booking are arranged for. We look forward to greeting you in Kenya when for the first time, leaders in every aspect of our work in the disability field ... people with disabilities, professionals and other service providers, volunteers, communicators, scholars, government officials and others -- will come together in Africa to understand the pressing needs of persons with disabilities who dwell on that vast and beautiful continent.

Cordially yours,



FENMORE R. SETON, PRESIDENT

M370R



Rehabilitation International

FENMORE R. SETON
PRESIDENT

Two Old Orchard Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473 USA
Phone: (203) 281-4448
Fax: (203) 281-0865

COPY

URGENT!

June 17, 1992

FAX (AS POSSIBLE) - CONFIRMED BY AIR MAIL

TO: ALL NATIONAL SECRETARIES, ALL COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS AND
ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL CONFIRMS THAT IT WILL HONOR ITS
COMMITMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, AND WILL FOLLOW
THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO HOLD THE 1992 RI ASSEMBLY AND WORLD CONGRESS
IN NAIROBI IN SEPTEMBER.

This has not been an easy decision to make. When the RI Executive Committee met in
Holland on May 12th, the many arguments pro and con were debated for hours. In the end,
an unofficial vote by the Executive Committee as to whether or not to move the Assembly to
Europe was virtually deadlocked.

The Executive Committee then decided to send questionnaires to all National Secretaries.
Of the many questionnaires so far returned, approximately one-half strongly indicate that
the respondents want NO change from Nairobi.

At the meeting in Holland in May, your President and the Secretary General requested
that Mr. Tomas Lagerwall, our esteemed Consultant to the RI Secretariat, return to Kenya
to make a final determination as to the feasibility of continuing with plans for the Nairobi
meetings. Mr. Lagerwall has just returned from having spent three weeks in Nairobi ...
studying every aspect concerned with our proposed meetings. He has now sent to the
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disabilities living in developing countries."

Please be aware that the Executive Committee and not least of all your President
recognizes that there remain concerns regarding the political situation and security in Kenya.
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encouragement, our expertise and our technology to the countless persons with disabilities in
the developing countries.

SECRETARIAT: 25 EAST 21st STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010 U.S.A.
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Cordially yours,



FENMORE R. SETON, PRESIDENT



Rehabilitation International®

FENMORE R. SETON
PRESIDENT

Two Old Orchard Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473 USA
Phone: (203) 281-4448
Fax: (203) 281-0865

June 17, 1992 FAX (AS POSSIBLE) - CONFIRMED BY AIR MAIL

TO: RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As you are aware, at our recent meeting in Holland in May, the RI Executive Committee found it most difficult to agree on a definitive stand as to whether or not plans should be changed for the Assembly meeting and the World Congress scheduled for Nairobi. And now, the results of the poll of the National Secretaries indicates that they are similarly divided.

Fortunately, the RI Secretariat has just received a straight-forward, unvarnished, first-hand report from Mr. Tomas Lagerwall, our Swedish Consultant to the RI Secretariat, who has just returned from three weeks in Kenya. Mr. Lagerwall reports a great improvement in the progress of the Kenya Organizing Committee. And, most importantly, he informs us of a renewed commitment on the part of the Kenyan government to provide at least \$14,000,000 Kenyan shillings of the \$15,000,000 KS originally pledged for the support of the World Congress.

As you know and understand, we no longer have time to debate. Either we mobilize our forces NOW - without any further delay, or our three and one-half year effort will be in danger of failure. Even with recognition of the potential problems and risks involved, there seems to be just one courageous and honorable course for RI to follow. With what, I pray, will be your blessing, I now embark upon that course.

From my heart, I entreat each and every Executive Committee member to set aside any differences of opinion and to proceed at once with vigor to take all possible steps to encourage in their Region the greatest possible Assembly and World Congress participation. This represents an unparalleled opportunity for Rehabilitation International to prove our unity of purpose and our dedication to provide important and necessary assistance to the millions of oppressed and forgotten persons with disabilities in Africa and in the developing countries of the World.

Yours most sincerely,

FENMORE R. SETON, PRESIDENT

Enclosure: Letter to National Secretaries

COPY



March 31, 1992

Mrs. Jean E. Caine
V. P. for North America
Rehabilitation International
Golden Horseshoe Radio Network
284 Church Street
Oakville, Ontario L6J 3N8
CANADA

Dear Jean:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 1992. I am honored by the intentions of USCIR and CRCDC to nominate you and I together as a team to once again represent North America in RI. I have enjoyed working with you for the past two years and I shall look forward to even more opportunities to work together during a second term.

I support the initiative to remove the deputy designation from the title of one of the regional vice presidents. Frankly, your efforts to involve me have made me feel as though I were on equal footing with you despite the titular difference. I appreciate that! Perhaps that is one of the reasons that I have enjoyed our relationship.

I look forward to seeing you in Holland. There is no doubt that we shall encounter some provocative questions at that meeting. I hope that we can avoid getting distracted by differences in personalities and focus strictly on the circumstances and the issues at hand.

Best regards,


Lex Frieden
Senior Vice President

LF:rf



Called to confirm 3-5-92

Rehabilitation International

February 26, 1992

Mr. Lex Frieden
RI Deputy Vice President
1333 Moursund
Houston, TX 77025
USA

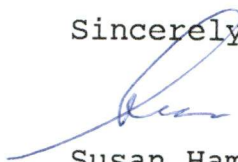
Dear Lex:

As you know, and further to our communications on this matter, RI President, Dr. Fenmore Seton, has indicated that he will contribute to Rehabilitation International U.S. \$5,000.00 to be utilized as a fund to be divided between yourself and John Stott in order to ensure that you are able to participate in the forthcoming Special Session of the RI Executive Committee to discuss the RI Strategic Plan for the Future. This Session will take place in Enschede, the Netherlands on May 11 and 12, and I will be sending to you under separate cover further details regarding accommodations and arrangements there.

Dr. Seton deems it essential that both you and John be present at the meeting, and he will transfer the contribution to Rehabilitation International by April 1, 1992. I will be grateful if you will confirm to me if the transfer of funds, U.S. \$2,500.00 will facilitate and assure your participation in the Executive Committee meeting.

With kindest of regards,

Sincerely,


Susan Hammerman
Secretary General

SRH:lt



Rehabilitation International®

FENMORE R. SETON
PRESIDENT

Two Old Orchard Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473 USA
Phone: (203) 281-4448
Fax: (203) 281-0865

October 21, 1991

MR. LEX FRIEDEN
Senior Vice President, TIRR
1333 Moursund
Houston, TX 77030-3405

Dear Lex:

Thank you for taking the time and effort to send on to me your important letter dated October 8th.

The subject that you raise is a significant one. Fortunately, it is one where there seems to be a definitive answer . . . and fortunately again, I am pleased to be able to report to you that THAT answer finds Rehabilitation International in a completely legal role in connection with the \$175,000 contribution to the Abilympics from the Phillip Morris Company.

My authority for the above statement comes from two strong sources. The first is our Treasurer, David Cooney, who when I questioned him on the 'phone, states unequivocally that the Tax Laws of the United States definitely permit monies to be passed through a United States non-profit organization as long as the monies are used in a manner that is in consonance with the constitutionally spelled-out mission, goals, etc. of the receiving organization.

David Cooney goes further to explain that such contributions are made very frequently to his own GOODWILL INDUSTRIES organization.

The second authority I would cite is SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION located in Westport, Connecticut. For a period of years, I had the honor to be the National Treasurer of that organization whose budget today exceeds one hundred million dollars annually. As you are aware, SAVE THE CHILDREN provides programs in approximately twenty-five foreign countries. Thus a donor from the United States is actually passing money through Westport, Connecticut to be used in programs located in NEPAL, SRI LANKA, the GAZA STRIP, ZIMBABWE, etc.

As you are aware, Lex, I was not present at the BERLIN Assembly Meeting to hear Dr. Fang's remarks . . . but all attendees I have spoken to agree that it would have been better if he had chosen different words. When next I have a chance to see Dr. Fang, face-to-face, I will try to discuss with him the nuances of the situation . . . and the unhappy reactions which resulted.

Mr. Lex Frieden
October 21, 1991

Page - 2 -

Concerning your suggestion that "no funds in excess of \$5,000 may be distributed by RI without due consideration and approval by the RI Executive Committee", I would ask, Lex, that you consider amending your proposal to read "without due consideration and approval by the RI Treasurer". In the first place, I hope you will agree that it is quite well-established that the practice is legal. Secondly, contacting the Executive Committee to explain each and every such situation which might arise would very much add to the burden of the Secretariat. (You are aware, I am sure, that rarely do more than one-third of the Executive Committee Members reply in a timely fashion to communications from the Secretariat.) Thirdly, I think it is also quite well-established that our RI Treasurers are usually prudent, knowledgeable, and aware Executives.

In closing, let me reiterate my complete acceptance and admiration for the last sentence of your letter to me. It surely is VITAL that RI "be held to the strictest standards of ethics and business management that we can impose".

Yours most sincerely,



FENMORE R. SETON
PRESIDENT

sk/131

cc: RI Treasurer
RI Secretary General
Mrs. Jean Caine
Mr. John Wingate





RI
File

October 8, 1991

Mr. Fenmore R. Seton, President
Rehabilitation International
Two Old Orchard Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473

Dear Fen:

I am writing to you, as Deputy Vice President of Rehabilitation International for North America, to state my concern regarding a matter which came to my attention at the recent World Assembly of Rehabilitation International. As you may know, a question was raised from the floor during the Assembly relating to the involvement of RI with the recent Abilympics in Hong Kong. In responding to a question about funding received for sponsorship of the Abilympics, former RI President, Dr. Harry Fang, reported that Phillip Morris Company gave \$175,000 to Abilympics and that this money was passed through RI "for tax purposes."

As I was a member of the RI Executive Committee during the time at which this interchange apparently occurred, I must, for the record, state that I was not aware of this matter prior to Dr. Fang's report to the World Assembly. Further, for the record, I would never approve such action on the part of RI and I object to any role which RI may have had either directly or indirectly in tax evasion or tax manipulation in the United States, in Hong Kong, or anywhere else in the world. Finally, I would recommend that you, in your capacity as RI President, immediately initiate a full and complete investigation of this matter, that you report the results of this investigation to all members of RI, and that you recommend appropriate remedies be taken by the Executive Committee of RI to make restitution for any wrong doing which has occurred.

I realize that the reference to "tax purposes" by Dr. Fang may have many meanings, some of which may not involve illegalities. However, the mere fact that RI apparently served strictly as a pass-through organization for these funds raises many questions of ethics and business judgment which are separate from the legal questions raised. With respect to these other questions, I recommend that you immediately institute a policy stating that no funds in excess of \$5,000 may be distributed by RI without due consideration and approval by the RI Executive Committee, unless such distributions have been given prior approval by the Executive Committee in the budget process.

Mr. Fenmore R. Seton
October 8, 1991
Page 2 --

Please receive these recommendations in the responsible and constructive sense in which they are intended. RI is important to people with disabilities throughout the world, and it should be held to the strictest standards of ethics and business management that we can impose.

Sincerely yours,



Lex Frieden
Senior Vice President, TIRR
Deputy Vice President, North America, RI

LF:rf

cc: Susan Hammerman
David Cooney

bcc: J. Dart
J. Wingate
S. Parker



Rehabilitation International
Manual on
Policies and Procedures

Revised June 1991

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Basic Documents	Page(s)
1) RI Constitution	A-1 - A-9
2) Assembly Rules of Procedure	A-10 - A-14
3) Voting Procedures	A-15 - A-18
4) Guidelines for the Nominating Committee	A-19
B. Membership	
1) Affiliated National Organizations (ANO)	B-1 - B-2
2) Associate Members (AM)	B-1 - B-2
3) International Member Organizations (IMO)	B-1 - B-2
4) Membership Application	B-3 - B-4
5) Honorary Councillors	B-5
6) Life Patron Membership	B-5 - B-6
7) Honor Council	B-7
8) Supporting Membership	B-5
C. Key Policy Statements of RI	
1) Use of the RI Name and Emblem	C-1 - C-2
2) Use of the International Symbol of Access	C-3 - C-7
3) Policy on Participation of Disabled Persons and their Organizations in RI	
a) Decision of the Assembly, Lisbon, 1984	C-8
b) Decision of the Assembly, Winnipeg, 1980	C-9
c) Decision of the Assembly, Lisbon, 1984	C-10
4) Policy on International Meetings	
a) Policy Relative to International Meetings	C-11 - C-13
b) Policy on International Meetings	C-14
c) Standard Memorandum of Agreement	C-15 - C-17
d) Accessibility of International Meetings	C-18 - C-19
e) Practical Arrangements for Assembly Meetings	C-20 - C-21
f) Scheduling RI Meetings	C-22
5) Policy on Regional Activity	
a) Policy on Regional Structure and Activity	C-23 - C-25
b) Definition of the Areas Covered by Regional Structures	C-26
c) Bylaws of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific	C-27 - C-31

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 6) | Policy on Development Assistance | |
| a) | Resolution on Technical and Economic Cooperation for Developing Countries, Madrid, 1989 | C-32 - C-33 |
| b) | Resolution on Development Aid, Tokyo, 1988 | C-34 |
| c) | Resolution on Increased Priority to Technical Assistance for Rehabilitation, Ofir, 1974 | C-35 - C-36 |
| d) | Resolution on African Rehabilitation Institute, Mbabane, 1985 | C-37 |

D. Terms of Reference for the RI Standing Commissions

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1) | Education Commission | D-1 |
| 2) | Commission on Leisure, Recreation & Sports | D-2 |
| 3) | Medical Commission | D-3 |
| 4) | Commission on Organization and Administration | D-4 - D-6 |
| 5) | Social Commission | D-7 |
| 6) | International Commission on Technical Aids, Buildings and Transportation (ICTA) | D-8 |
| 7) | Vocational Commission | D-9 |

E. Other Policy Statements of RI

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1) | Resolution on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, Lisbon, 1984 | E-1 - E-2 |
| 2) | Resolution on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Disabled Persons, Tel Aviv, 1976 | E-3 |
| 3) | Resolution in Support of World Summit for Children, Beijing, 1990 | E-4 - E-5 |
| 4) | Resolution on AIDS, Turku, 1987 | E-6 |
| 5) | Resolution on Prevention of Poliomyelitis, Tel Aviv, 1976 | E-7 - E-8 |
| 6) | Resolution on Controls to Reduce Traffic Accidents, Tel Aviv, 1976 | E-9 |
| 7) | Resolution on Terminology in the Spanish Language, Madrid, 1989 | E-10 - E-11 |



Rehabilitation International

constitution

(as amended by the RI Assembly 14-16 October 1986, London)

Article I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be Rehabilitation International

Article II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Organization shall be to promote the prevention of disability, the rehabilitation of disabled people and the equalization of opportunities within society on behalf of disabled people and their families throughout the world, and it shall:

Serve as a medium for deliberation, for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and experiences, and for compilation and dissemination of information.

Organize international and regional congresses, conferences, seminars and courses of instruction.

Encourage research in the fields of disability prevention, rehabilitation, and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of disabled people and their families, including research on the causes of disability and promote measures for their prevention.

Encourage the formation and development of national and regional organizations for disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities. Assist and stimulate them through the exchange of information and the experience of others, the better to cope with the needs of disabled people in their countries and/or regions. Engender in such organizations and in their members a consciousness on a regional and global basis of the necessity and importance of their joining in an international effort to accomplish disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities the world over.

Assist member organizations in establishing and carrying forward in cooperation with governmental agencies or authorities, private enterprises and organizations of disabled people, programs for disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities.

Cooperate with other international organizations, both governmental and voluntary, including organizations of people with disabilities, in improving the status of people with disabilities.

Ensure the participation of people with disabilities in the activities and governance of the organization and within its member organizations and technical commissions.

Encourage the enactment in the various countries of such legislation as will further the development of the program herein set forth and give all appropriate assistance to that end.

Receive, use, hold and apply any contribution, bequests or endowments, or the proceeds thereof to carry forward such purposes.

Provide international services and technical assistance and other services compatible with the purposes set forth in this Article.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. *Classes*

The membership of Rehabilitation International shall consist of organizations of, for and/or working on behalf of disabled persons in the categories of:

- (a) Affiliated National Organizations
- (b) Associate Members
- (c) International Member Organizations

Section 2. *Affiliated National Organizations*

- (a) One or more organizations in each country may be admitted by the Assembly as Affiliated National Organizations. Each must satisfy the following requirements:
 - (1) It must be national in scope and program, and be concerned as a principal activity with serving the needs of disabled people in the country in which it functions.
 - (2) It must agree if its application is accepted to pay to Rehabilitation International such annual subscriptions as the Assembly from time to time decides and to conform with all provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to it.
 - (3) It must supply with its application such evidence as the Assembly may require to substantiate the status of the applicant and its entitlement to be elected as an Affiliated National Organization.
 - (4) It is to submit an annual report of activity and program from which the Assembly may decide whether or not the membership status of each should be maintained or changed.
- (b) The Assembly shall, whenever possible, grant Affiliated National Organization status to national committees or councils that are representative of the major bodies concerned with disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities in their countries.
- (c) The Affiliated National Organizations shall be representatives of Rehabilitation International in the countries in which such organizations operate and shall use their best efforts to promote and obtain therein the achievement of the organization's purposes and programs.

Section 3. *Associate Members*

- (a) Societies, councils, associations or similar voluntary or governmental organizations, carrying on programs for disability prevention, rehabilitation of disabled people and equalization of opportunities on behalf of disabled people within society may be approved by the Assembly as Associate Members of Rehabilitation International upon application and payment of such annual dues as are prescribed by the Assembly.
- (b) Each Affiliated National Organization may nominate suitable voluntary or governmental organizations in its own country for Associate Membership, such nominations to be dealt with by the Assembly.

Section 4. *International Member Organizations*

International Organizations interested in the purposes of Rehabilitation International may become International Member Organizations upon being admitted by the Assembly and paying such annual subscriptions as the Assembly prescribes.

Article IV

ORGANIZATION

Section 1. *Structure of Organization*

The organization of Rehabilitation International shall consist of:

- (a) The Assembly
- (b) The Executive Committee
- (c) The Officers
- (d) Administrative Committees
- (e) National Secretaries
- (f) Standing Commissions and Other Scientific and Technical Committees
- (g) Secretary General and Secretariat

Section 2. *The Assembly*

- (a) The Assembly shall consist of representatives designated by the Affiliated National Organizations and by the International Member Organizations.
- (b) The number of representatives to the Assembly that each Affiliated National Organization may designate shall be determined as follows:
 - (1) There shall be five classifications of countries, designated respectively as I, II, III, IV and V; and each country, according to its classification shall be entitled to the following number of representatives:

Classification I	1 representative
Classification II	2 representatives
Classification III	3 representatives

Classification IV	4 representatives
Classification V	5 representatives

- (2) The Assembly shall determine the classification to be assigned to each country. It shall take into consideration the population of the country to which it appertains, the general economic condition, the program of the organizations, and the extent of the services they provide and other pertinent factors. The Assembly may set a minimum annual subscription to be paid by countries in each classification of membership. Countries may be reclassified from time to time by the Assembly on appeal of the Affiliated National Organizations.
- (3) When the Assembly has admitted more than one Affiliated National Organization in a country, those organizations shall determine by agreement among them the allocation of representatives to the Assembly from each organization, the total for the country being determined by the classification assigned to the country by the Assembly.
- (c) Each International Member Organization may designate one representative to the Assembly.
- (d) The designation by an organization of its representative or representatives shall be in writing in such form and supported by such authority as the Assembly may reasonably require; the appointing organization may from time to time change any designated representative and may also name an alternate to act instead of a designated representative if he or she is absent from any meeting of the Assembly.
- (e) A regular meeting of the Assembly shall be held every year and election of the Executive Committee shall be on its agenda every fourth year. It may also meet at the call of the President or on petition of a majority of the members of the Assembly.
- (f) Each designated representative or, as the case may be, designated alternate, shall be entitled to one vote at each such meeting. A Representative may give his or he proxy to any other duly designated representative by doing so in writing, provided that no representative may hold more than five votes from outside his or her country and that all representatives from any one country may hold no more than 10 votes from outside their country. No other voting by proxy is authorized.
- (g) The Assembly shall establish the general policies of the organization, including policies regarding application for membership, financial policies and the budget which, at each regular meeting of the Assembly, shall be approved for the two subsequent years. It shall review the accounts of the organization and the activities of the Executive Committee. It shall also be entitled in its discretion to terminate the membership of a member organization which it considers is not or is no longer, at least for the time being, entitled to recognition as such. It may designate consultants to facilitate the work of the organization.

Section 3. *The Executive Committee*

- (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of Rehabilitation International.
- (b) An Advisory Committee of people with disabilities will be a permanent technical com-

mittee to the Executive Committee and will be composed of RI officers who have disabilities or who are parents or legal guardians of a person with a disability. Members of the Advisory Committee will elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

- (c) The Executive Committee shall meet when needed at least annually on the call of the President or at the request of a majority of its members.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall be responsible to prepare the provisional agenda for the meetings of the Assembly and to act between meetings of the Assembly on issues of an urgent nature, except that it shall not act on issues specifically reserved to the Assembly.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall have powers to make by-laws for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Organization provided that the same is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution and the responsibilities specifically reserved to the Assembly.
- (f) The Executive Committee is authorized to co-opt consultants as may be required.

Section 4. *Officers*

- (a) The Officers of the organization shall be the President, the immediate Past President, the Treasurer and a Vice President and Deputy Vice President for each of the various regions of the world provided that in any region where the Vice President is not a person with a disability or a parent or legal guardian of a person with a disability the Deputy Vice-President shall be such a person. When considered necessary, one person may be charged with more than one of these duties. Such officers shall be elected by the Assembly for a period of four years or until the next meeting of the Assembly at which elections are on the agenda.
- (b) The President shall be the chief officer of the organization and shall preside over the meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, the immediate Past President shall preside over such meetings.
- (c) The Treasurer shall perform, under the direction of the Assembly, the duties usually appertaining to his or her office, including approval of the expenditures of all funds in accordance with the budget established by the Assembly.
- (d) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee, the Assembly may fill such vacancy, the individual to hold office until the next regular elections.

Section 5. *Administrative Committee*

- (a) The Assembly shall establish administrative committees as it may desire to advise it. Such Committees may be dissolved by the Assembly.
- (b) The President shall appoint and the Assembly approve not less than one year before any meeting of the Assembly at which elections are on the agenda a Nominating Committee of not fewer than five persons to present one or more names for each officer to be elected. Such Committee shall solicit suggestions from Affiliated National Organizations no less than six months before the meeting of the Assembly at which elections are on the agenda. Its report shall be published and mailed to Members of the Assembly at least 60 days before the election date.

Section 6. *National Secretaries*

- (a) The Affiliated National Organization or Organizations in each country shall appoint a National Secretary who shall act on their behalf in representing Rehabilitation International and in seeking the cooperation of national voluntary and governmental organizations, institutions, and individuals in establishing and carrying forward a program for disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities and carrying forward the purposes of Rehabilitation International. When the Assembly has admitted more than one Affiliated National Organization in a country, those organizations shall determine by agreement among them the selection of the National Secretary.
- (b) In any country where there is no Affiliated National Organization, the Assembly shall endeavor to appoint a National Secretary. Such National Secretary shall be the representative of Rehabilitation International in his or her country and shall seek the cooperation of national voluntary and governmental organizations, institutions and individuals as set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

Section 7. *Standing Commissions and other Scientific and Technical Committees*

- (a) The Assembly may establish Standing Commissions and other Scientific and Technical Committees which shall serve to expand and strengthen the program activities of Rehabilitation International and to advise the organization on matters pertaining to particular fields of competence.
- (b) Standing Commissions shall be composed of individuals named by the Affiliated National Organization or Organizations in each country and by each International Member Organization, and of such additional persons as the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with the President of Rehabilitation International may appoint. The terms of Commission members shall coincide with those of the Executive Committee.
- (c) Prior to each meeting of the Assembly at which regular elections of the Executive Committee are on the agenda, each Standing Commission will elect individuals to serve as its Chairman and as its Vice Chairman for the subsequent four-year period. No individual shall serve more than one four-year term as Chairman and no individual shall serve more than one four-year term as Vice Chairman except that, when an individual has replaced a Chairman or Vice Chairman in mid-term, he or she may be re-elected for a full four-year term.
- (d) Other scientific and technical committees established by the Assembly will be composed and appointed in accordance with the directions of the Assembly and will function for a period specified by the Assembly.
- (e) Regulations consistent with this Constitution for the efficient functioning of Standing Commissions and other committees shall be established and approved by the Assembly. Recommendations for such regulations may be made by Standing Commissions or other committees.

Section 8. *Secretary General and the Secretariat*

- (a) The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Secretary General shall have executive responsibility for the affairs of the organization and shall administer the headquarters office, prepare and present annual and other reports requested by the Executive Committee and Assembly, be responsible for recording and maintaining necessary reports of meetings, and manage the financial affairs of the organization in accordance with the Constitution and policies established by the Executive Committee and Assembly.

Article V

MEETINGS

Section 1. *Quorum*

The quorum for meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee shall be one-third of the then current membership thereof, but in no case less than three members. For the Assembly only, holders of proxies may be counted in establishing the quorum.

Section 2. *Voting*

- (a) Voting may be viva voce, by show of hands, or by ballot, which may be secret, as may be determined at any meeting. During the interim between meetings of the Assembly questions may be resolved by letter ballot. When questions are resolved by letter ballot, the approval of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly shall be secured.
- (b) All questions shall be decided by the vote of the majority of those present except that amendments of the Constitution shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, and except that actions taken by the Assembly by a vote of approval by less than one-third of the Assembly shall not be final until ratified by a mail vote.

Section 3. *Notice of Meetings*

Not less than three months' notice shall be given for meetings of the Assembly, such notice to be accompanied by the provisional agenda.

Article VI

WORLD CONGRESSES

Section 1. *Frequency*

A World Congress shall, if possible, be held every four years.

Section 2. *Congress Committee*

The Assembly shall receive and vote upon invitations from Member Organizations desiring to act as host for each World Congress or may solicit such invitations. After the host country has been determined, a Congress Committee shall be appointed by the host organization. The President or person designated by him or her shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Congress Committee. The Secretary General shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Congress Committee.

Section 3. *Program*

The program for each World Congress shall be prepared by the Secretary General in consultation with the Congress Committee, the Affiliated National Organizations and the scientific and technical committees and commissions of Rehabilitation International. It shall require the approval of the Assembly.

Section 4. *Memorandum of Agreement*

The Assembly shall establish a standard memorandum of agreement setting forth the responsibilities and obligations of Rehabilitation International and the host society, which shall be made available to countries extending invitations for World Congresses. Such standard memorandum shall be subject to negotiations as to details, provided, however, that the final memorandum of agreement shall be approved by the Assembly.

Article VII

FINANCES

Section 1. *The Budget*

The Assembly shall determine the annual budget of Rehabilitation International in accordance with estimates submitted to it by the Treasurer of the expected income for the year in question.

Section 2. *Annual Subscription*

The Assembly shall decide the general policy to be followed in determining the amount of the annual subscription to be paid by the Affiliated National Organization or Organizations in each country, which shall be a percentage of the annual budget of Rehabilitation International as established by the Assembly or of such other sum as the Assembly may determine.

Section 3. *Payment of Subscription*

Affiliated National Organizations, in the event of dissatisfaction with the proportion of the income budget allocated to be raised by their country, shall have the right of appeal to the Assembly. Annual subscriptions become due and payable on the first day of each year and shall be paid during the first six months of the year. If the annual subscription is not paid before the expiration of the calendar year, affiliation with Rehabilitation International is deemed terminated, unless the member organization submits an explanation which is accepted and approved in accordance with regulations adopted by the Assembly.

Section 4. *Apportionment of Subscription*

The amount of the annual subscription to be paid by each country may be apportioned locally by the Affiliated National Organization if only one, or among the Affiliated National Organizations if more than one, or otherwise in accordance with the policy adopted in each country.

Section 5. *Appeals for Funds*

Subscriptions and contributions may be invited from the public by appeals. Appeals by Rehabilitation International for funds shall be made in any country only on approval of the Affiliated National Organizations therein.

Section 6. *Fiscal Year*

The financial year of the organization shall be the calendar year.

Section 7. *Accounting Records*

The Assembly shall cause proper accounts to be kept. The books of accounts shall be in the custody of the Secretary General at the office of the organization or at such other place as the Assembly may direct.

Section 8. *Audit*

The accounts of the organization shall be examined and audited each year by one or more fully qualified auditors. An audited statement showing the financial position of the organization shall be published in a manner to be decided by the Treasurer and a copy sent to each Affiliated National Organization, to each International Member Organization and to each Assembly member within six months after the end of the financial year.

Article VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. *Required Vote*

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, or at any special meeting of the Assembly called for that purpose by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Assembly present at the meeting. It may also be amended at any time by letter ballot specifying the amendment thereby sanctioned providing such letter ballot so approving the amendment is signed by at least two-thirds of the full membership of the Assembly.

Section 2. *Notice of Proposed Amendment*

Notice of any proposed amendment, accompanied by the text of such amendment, shall be mailed to each member of the Assembly not later than 90 days prior to the date on which the proposal will be considered by the Assembly. If a letter ballot is solicited, a copy thereof shall be sent to each member of the Assembly with the text of the proposed amendment, and no letter ballot shall be effective until at least three months have elapsed after such material is sent to all entitled thereto.

Article IX

DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

If it becomes necessary or desirable to dissolve the organization, such dissolution shall be carried out by the Executive Committee after obtaining the approval of the Assembly. In such case, after paying or providing for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the organization, its remaining assets shall be divided pro rata among the member organizations in the ratio that the aggregate amount paid to the organization by each of them in the twenty-four month immediately prior to such dissolution bears to the aggregate amount so paid by all of the organizations.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

Rules of Procedure

*As modified in Paragraphs 28 and 32, pursuant to the decisions
of the Governing Assembly, June, 1987.*

I. Sessions

1. A regular session of the Assembly shall be held every year.
2. A special session of the Assembly shall be held at the call of the President or on petition of a majority of the members of the Assembly. Such special session shall be convened not sooner than 90 days after the date notice is mailed to members, and not later than 120 days after the date notice is mailed to members unless the President or petitioners shall in requesting the meeting have specified a later date.
3. Notice of all sessions of the Assembly shall be mailed to the members not less than 90 days prior to the date of convening.

II. Agenda

4. The provisional agenda for each session of the Assembly shall be approved by the Executive Committee and mailed to the members of the Executive Committee and Assembly together with the notice of session specified in Rule 3.
5. At the beginning of each session, the Assembly shall adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda. An item not included in the provisional agenda may be included in the agenda only when approved by at least two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy and voting.
6. The agenda may be revised during the session only when such revision is approved by at least two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy and voting.

III. Participation

7. The Assembly consists of representatives designated according to the Constitution by the Affiliated National Organizations and by the International Member Organizations. Alternatives may act for absent designated representatives when authorized to do so in writing by the appointing organizations.
8. Officers of Rehabilitation International, members of the Executive Committee, and the Secretary General or his/her authorized representative may attend sessions of the Assembly and participate in the debate, but may not vote.

A member may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

9. The Assembly may admit to its sessions as observers such additional persons as it finds

appropriate, provided that such observers may not participate in the debate unless specifically invited to do so by the presiding officer.

IV. President and Vice Presidents

10. The President of Rehabilitation International shall preside over meetings of the Assembly.
11. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the immediate Past President of Rehabilitation International shall preside. If the immediate Past President is also not available, the Assembly shall choose one of the Vice Presidents to preside.

V. Secretariat

12. The Secretary General shall make suitable arrangements for the premises and facilities required for sessions of the VI. Languages

VI. Languages

13. The official and working language of the Assembly shall be English.
14. Representatives desiring interpretation into and from languages other than English must themselves make the necessary arrangements or, when requested to do so, the Secretary General will make the necessary arrangements provided that the costs of such interpretation can be met from sources other than Rehabilitation International.

VII. Conduct of Business

15. One-third of the membership of the Assembly shall constitute a quorum, but in no case shall this be fewer than three members.
16. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Assembly, shall direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Assembly and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He shall rule on points of order and shall have in particular the power to propose adjournment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a meeting.

Debate shall be confined to the question before the Assembly, and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

17. During the discussion of any matter, a member may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A member may appeal against the rule of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present in person or by proxy and voting.
18. During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one member may speak in favor of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.
19. The Assembly may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each member

may speak on any question, except on procedural questions, when the President shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a member has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

20. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate of an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Assembly.
21. A member may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other member has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to vote.
22. During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall be immediately put to the vote.
23. Subject to Rule 17, the following motions shall have the precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:
 - (a) To suspend the meeting.
 - (b) To adjourn the meeting.
 - (c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion.
 - (d) For the closure of the debate on the item under consideration.
24. A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

VIII. Resolutions

25. Draft resolutions for consideration by the Assembly may be submitted by members, by duly authorized alternates and by the Executive Committee. The text of such draft resolutions must be in the hands of the Secretary General not later than 60 days before the convening of the Assembly, and circulated by him/her to the members not later than 45 days before the convening of the Assembly.
26. A draft resolution submitted after the deadline established in Rule 25 will be admitted for consideration by the Assembly only when admission is approved by at least two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy and voting.

IX. Voting

27. Each member of the Assembly and each duly authorized alternate shall have one vote. A representative may give his or her proxy to another representative from the same country by doing so in writing, provided that no representative may hold more than five votes from outside

his or her country and that all representatives from any one country may hold no more than 10 votes from outside their country. No other voting by proxy is authorized.

28. Except as provided otherwise in these Rules or in the Constitution, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present in person or by proxy and voting. For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase "members present in person or by proxy and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote and members who abstain from voting.
29. The Assembly shall normally vote viva voce or by show of hands at the discretion of the President, except that any member may request a vote by secret ballot. Elections shall be by secret ballot whenever there is more than one person nominated for any office.
30. After the voting has commenced, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the President, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.
31. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises that proposal.
32. If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected. In elections, should no nominee receive a majority of the votes cast, a second vote shall be conducted with the two nominees having the largest number of votes on the first ballot as candidates. Voting for the election of Deputy Vice Presidents shall be conducted subsequent to voting for the election of Vice Presidents when necessary to ensure in any region where the Vice President is not a person with a disability or a parent or legal guardian of a person with a disability that the Deputy Vice President shall be such a person.

X. Elections

33. All Assembly members, Executive Committee Members, and National Secretaries should receive, at least six weeks before a meeting of the Assembly at which elections are on the agenda, a list of all proposed persons with information of their names, data and the nominator according to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the RI Constitution.
34. The Assembly shall receive the report of the Nominating Committee, published and mailed in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 (b), of the Constitution of Rehabilitation International.
35. Members of the Assembly may submit additional nominations (with name, data and nominator) to the list of nominations made available in accordance with Paragraphs 33 and 34, provided that they are presented in writing to the Secretary General not later than 24 hours after the Assembly has accepted the Report of the Nominating Committee.
36. The Secretary General shall publish and distribute to members of the Assembly a revised list

containing in alphabetical order all the proposed candidates (their names, data and nominator).

37. Elections shall take place at the final meeting of the session of the Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot. Three tellers shall be appointed by the President and shall count the ballots.

XI. Amendments

38. Any of these rules may be amended by the Assembly, provided that the proposed amendment must be submitted as a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Rule 25.



VOTING PROCEDURES

1. In order to clarify for Assembly representatives the voting procedures, relevant portions of the Assembly Rules of Procedure and the Constitution on voting are attached as Annexes A and B, respectively.
2. A proxy form is attached as Annex C. All Assembly representatives who have assigned their proxy vote to another individual must provide such a signed proxy authorization to the Rehabilitation International Secretariat in advance of the session at which the proxy representative will vote.
3. The number of votes per country delegation are assigned on the basis of the financial assessment paid from the country in concern during the first six months of the Calendar year in which the assembly meets.
4. The apportionment of Assembly members is based on the classification system set forth in the Constitution and on a scale adopted in 1985 by the Rehabilitation International Executive Committee:

Classification	Amount Paid in Current Year
I	\$600.
II	\$601. to 1,499.
III	\$1,500. to 2,999.
IV	\$3,000. to 9,999.
V	\$10,000. to more

5. Following the Opening of the Assembly each representative to the Assembly will receive a color coded card to be displayed during voting. The card will correspond to the number of votes the representative is authorized to make.
6. Delegates must receive a new color coded voting card if they change the number of votes for which they have proxy authorization during the meeting of the Assembly. Signed proxy forms must be provided to the RI Secretariat before any change can be made during the Assembly session on the voting card.

Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

IX. Voting

27. Each member of the Assembly and each duly authorized alternate shall have one vote. A representative may give his or her proxy to another representative from the same country by doing so in writing, provided that no representative may hold more than five votes from outside his or her country and that all representatives from any one country may hold no more than 10 votes from outside their country. No other voting by proxy is authorized.
28. Except as provided otherwise in these Rules or in the Constitution, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present in person or by proxy and voting. For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase "members present in person or by proxy and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote and members who abstain from voting.
29. The Assembly shall normally vote viva voce or by show of hands at the discretion of the President, except that any member may request a vote by secret ballot. Elections shall be by secret ballot whenever there is more than one person nominated for any office.
30. After the voting has commenced, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the President, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.
31. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises that proposal.
32. If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected. In elections, should no nominee receive a majority of the votes cast, a second vote shall be conducted with the two nominees having the largest number of votes on the first ballot as candidates. Voting for the election of Deputy Vice Presidents shall be conducted subsequent to voting for the election of Vice Presidents when necessary to ensure in any region where the Vice President is not a person with a disability or a parent or legal guardian of a person with a disability that the Deputy Vice President shall be such a person.

Constitution of Rehabilitation International

Article IV

ORGANIZATION

Section 2. *The Assembly*

- (d) The designation by an organization of its representative or representatives shall be in writing in such form and supported by such authority as the Assembly may reasonably require; the appointing organization may from time to time change any designated representative and may also name an alternate to act instead of a designated representative if he is absent from any meeting of the Assembly.
- (f) Each designated representative or, as the case may be, designated alternate, shall be entitled to one vote at each such meeting. A representative may give his or her proxy to any other duly designated representative by doing so in writing, provided that no representative may hold more than five votes from outside his or her country and that all representatives from any one country may hold no more than 10 votes from outside their country. No other voting by proxy is authorized.

Article V

MEETINGS

Section 1. *Quorum*

The quorum for meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee shall be one-third of the then current membership, thereof, but in no case less than three members. For the Assembly only, holders of proxies may be counted in establishing the quorum.

Section 2. *Voting*

- (a) Voting may be viva voce, by show of hands, or by ballot, which may be secret, as may be determined at any meeting. During the interim between meetings of the Assembly questions may be resolved by letter ballot. When questions are resolved by letter ballot, the approval of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly shall be secured.
- (b) All questions shall be decided by the vote of the majority of those present except that amendments of the Constitution shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, and except that actions taken by the Assembly by a vote of approval by less than one-third of the Assembly shall not be final until ratified by a mail vote.

SAMPLE

Tokyo
2-3 September 1988

PROXY

I certify that I have been appointed a member of the Rehabilitation International Assembly by the following Affiliated National Organization or International Member Organization:

I hereby authorize: _____
to cast my vote on any and all matters to be voted upon by the Assembly at its meeting in Tokyo, Japan, 2-3 September 1988.

Date

Signature

Name (Printed or typed)

Note: No representative may hold more than five votes from outside his or her country and all representatives from any one country may hold no more than 10 votes from outside their country.

N.B.: This proxy form must be presented upon registration at the Rehabilitation International Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, 2-3 September 1988, to permit voting entitlement.



Rehabilitation International[®]

assembly

Tel Aviv
11-12 June 1976

Guidelines for the Nominating Committee

Excerpt from The Report of the Meeting of the Assembly

The proposed guidelines were approved, providing that:

- (a) Each nominee must be approved for nomination by the Affiliated National Organization or Organizations in his or her country.
- (b) The history of financial support to Rehabilitation International from his or her country will be taken into account in deciding on each nominee.
- (c) For incumbent members of the Council past participation in meetings of the Council will be taken into account.
- (d) No individual will be nominated unless his or her willingness to serve if elected has been verified.

Mr. Montan (Sweden) requested that the record show the importance of also selecting individuals who were consumers of rehabilitation services.



Rehabilitation International

membership

Rehabilitation International is a federation of organizations throughout the world conducting programs for disability prevention and rehabilitation. Its membership includes both voluntary organizations and governmental agencies.

Affiliated National Organizations

These are organizations, either governmental or voluntary, which meet the following criteria:

- They are national in structure and program and are principally concerned with serving the needs of disabled persons in the countries in which they function.
- They have agreed to pay to Rehabilitation International an annual subscription, the amount of which is determined by the RI Assembly, and to comply with all relevant provisions of the RI Constitution.
- They have supplied with their applications for membership such evidence as the Assembly has requested to substantiate their status.
- When more than one organization in a given country meet the above requirements they may each be admitted to membership so long as there is agreement between them for sharing the rights and responsibilities of membership.

International Member Organizations

International organizations interested in the purposes of Rehabilitation International may be admitted by the Assembly as International Member Organizations.

Associate Members

Any organization, governmental or voluntary, carrying out program related to disability prevention and rehabilitation may become an Associate Member upon application to an acceptance by the Assembly. Associate Members frequently are less than national in the scope of their activities or are active in connection with specific disability groups or professions.

Rights and Privileges

Affiliated National Organization: To designate representatives to the Assembly and to the Standing Commissions; to name the National Secretary for the country; to receive all information services.

International Member Organization: To designate one representative to the Assembly and to each Standing Commission; to receive all information services.

Associate Member: To designate an observer to the meetings of the Assembly; to receive all information services.

Obligations

Annual Report: An Affiliated National Organization is required to submit an annual report each year. International Member Organizations and Associate Members are requested to submit annual reports.

Affiliated National Organization: The amount is determined by a scale based on that of the United Nations. Minimum amount is US\$600.

International Member Organization: US\$690.

Associate Member: US\$400.

Principles and Procedures

The applicant body must be organized in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the country in which it has its legal base.

The Assembly may request financial statements or other evidence to establish the ability of the applicant to pay an annual subscription to Rehabilitation International.

The term "country" in the Constitution will be interpreted in the manner judged to be in the best interests of assistance to disabled persons in the area concerned.

The Assembly will require independent verification of the information submitted by an applying organization, usually by an official visit by a representative of Rehabilitation International to the headquarters of the applicant.

For Additional Information

Secretary General
Rehabilitation International
25 East 21st Street
New York, New York 10010, USA

Telephone: (212) 420-1500
Telex: 446412
Telefax: (212) 505-0871



Rehabilitation International

application for membership

1. Name of Organization
2. Address
3. Date Founded
4. Legal status and name of law under which organized
5. Names of Principal Officers

Name and address of Principal Executive Officer (Secretary General, Director, etc.)

6. Is the Organization international?
national?
or local?
7. Does the Organization have chapters or branches?
Please list names and addresses:
8. List any other organizations (national, regional or international) with which the organization is affiliated:
9. Does the organization give direct service to individuals?
10. How is the organization financed?
Contributions from the public?
Government subsidy?
Payment for services?
Other?

11. Please attach budgets for two years immediately preceding.
12. Is the organization able to assume the responsibility of an annual subscription to Rehabilitation International which shall be determined by the Assembly?
13. What have been the principal achievements in the organization's program during the past two years?*
14. What are the organization's plans for program and development during the next two years?*
15. Please describe how the organization anticipates benefitting from international affiliation:*
16. Please describe how the organization can contribute to international cooperation (training facilities, information, experts, etc.):*

*Please use additional sheets where necessary.

date

signature

title

Please return this form to:

The Secretary General
Rehabilitation International
25 East 21st Street
New York, New York 10010, USA



Zoetermeer
12-14 October 1982

Other Categories of Membership

Excerpt from the Report of the Meeting of the Assembly

9. Report of the ad hoc Committee on Internal Finance

The recommendations of the Internal Finance Committee were discussed.

2. Other Sources of Income

The Committee recommended the following possible sources of income:

- a) **Honorary Councillors:** Additional contributions of \$100,000 or more from individuals should continue to be sought;
- b) **Life Patron Members:** A new membership category should be created to honor individuals who make a one-time contribution of \$6,000 or more.
- c) **Supporting Memberships:** The committee recommended a new category of "Supporting Member" with annual dues of \$125 with the provisions that:
 - i) Any country for which the full subscription has been paid for the previous three years should have the right to decline the category in that country and,
 - ii) Any income to RI from Supporting Members be credited in full to offset any deficit in the annual subscription of the country concerned for the year in which such income is received.

4. Items 2(a) and 2(b) were approved unanimously.

Concerning Item 2(c), there were three motions before the Assembly: first, a proposal that paragraph 2(c) (i) be deleted; secondly, that paragraph 2(c) (ii) be deleted; thirdly, that the conditions of both paragraphs be applied to 2(a) and 2(b). The first motion was lost by 66 votes to 21 with 1 abstention. The second motion was lost by 64 votes to 12 with no abstentions. 79 votes were cast in favor of accepting paragraphs 2(c) (i) and (ii) with no votes against and no abstentions. Mr. Puig (Spain) withdrew the third motion and in its place moved that item 2(c) (i) should be applicable to items 2(a) and (b). This motion was lost.



Rehabilitation International®

LIFE PATRON MEMBERSHIP

Designation

The designation of Life Patron member is reserved for individuals approved by the Rehabilitation International Executive Committee, who have evidenced a deep and abiding interest in helping disabled persons throughout the world...particularly with reference to the important aims and mission of Rehabilitation International. Such membership carries a one-time membership contribution fee of U.S.\$6,000.00 per individual.

Life-long Privilege

Life Patron membership confers the life-long privilege to attend Rehabilitation International meetings (on a non-voting basis) wherever they may be held throughout the world. Due recognition will be accorded to Life Patron members. Appropriate Honor Certificates will be awarded by the President of Rehabilitation International to new Life Patron members. A handsome plaque commemorating Life Patron members is prominently installed at the RI World Headquarters building.

Policy Basis

The decision to create the category of Life Patron member was taken by the Rehabilitation International Assembly at its meeting in October 1982 in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands, in recognition of the need to introduce new sources of income for the world organization. Life Patron memberships permit Rehabilitation International to offset the gap between assessed income received from member organizations and expenditures for the wide range of activities approved each year by the governing Assembly. Life Patron memberships also are creating the basis for establishment within RI of a permanent reserve fund which enables the world organization to exist on a more stable financial basis.

Rehabilitation International is a world-wide non-governmental federation of organizations and agencies conducting programs for disability prevention and rehabilitation. Its membership includes both voluntary organizations and governmental agencies. Founded in 1922, the organization has grown to 135 member agencies in 81 countries in all regions of the world.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Lisbon
1-3 June 1984

Honor Council

The Rehabilitation International Assembly, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, June 1-3, 1984:

NOTING that many individuals have served Rehabilitation International throughout the years;

APPRECIATING the dedication with which these individuals have served and contributed towards the advancement of Rehabilitation International's goals;

UNDERSTANDING that so many still have the ability and would desire the opportunity to make further contributions:

RECOGNIZING that these persons including past officers of Rehabilitation International, Secretaries General, and RI Commission Chairmen may not, at present, have a mechanism for their continued association with Rehabilitation International;

REALIZING that such a mechanism could strengthen Rehabilitation International by expanding its influence and broadening its base of support;

BELIEVING that there should be a role in Rehabilitation International for proven world leaders in the disability movement;

PROPOSES that a study group be convened that examines the feasibility of creating a mechanism whereby Rehabilitation International will be able to continue to benefit from the knowledge, experience and dedication of past officers, Secretaries General and Commission Chairmen within a structured framework which is formally recognized by, and a component part of RI.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Use of the Rehabilitation International Name and Emblem

ASSERTING the importance for the image and world standing of Rehabilitation International that its name, any abbreviations of its name, and its emblem be used widely in manners and forms that are in harmony with the principles and policies that have been adopted by its governing bodies;

RECALLING that the name "Rehabilitation International" has been duly registered as a protected service mark by the United States Government, and that the legal process of obtaining similar protection for the emblem of the organization is nearing completion;

ESTABLISHES the following policies to govern the use of these items:

- (a) No use of the name "Rehabilitation International", of its abbreviation, or of the approved emblem of the organization, which is reproduced at the top of this page, for purposes other than normal communications is authorized without prior approval from Rehabilitation International except as provided below;
- (b) Use of these items by RI Member Organizations is authorized and encouraged with the following limitations:
 - (1) When the name or the emblem is used in connection with an activity that has not been approved by Rehabilitation International, the presentation should make it clear that the name or the emblem is being used only to identify the responsible organization as a Member Organization of RI.
 - (2) When the name or the emblem is used in connection with any fund raising in a manner that gives any appearance or inference that Rehabilitation International will benefit directly or indirectly, prior approval from Rehabilitation International is required.
 - (3) Any Organization that is a member of Rehabilitation International and presents itself as a component part of the world organization has a responsibility to abide by the policies and relationships of RI and is required to ensure that its policies are in harmony with those of Rehabilitation International.
- (c) The name "Rehabilitation International" and, when appropriate, the emblem will always be used as the primary identification on letter paper, documents and other materials produced by subsidiary organs of RI. When relevant, additional information may be presented to identify organizations providing Detached Subsidiary organs include: the Standing Commissions, the Regional Committees and other regional structures, any other Committees, any sub-commissions or sub-committees of the above, and any activities or projects conducted or sponsored by any of the above.

- (d) Then only authorized abbreviation of the name "Rehabilitation International" is the first letters of those words used without periods: RI.
- (e) The Secretary General of Rehabilitation International is authorized to provide opinions, approvals and disapprovals concerning the implementation of these policies. Any Member Organization may appeal to the Executive Committee or to the Assembly the decision of the Secretary General.

INFORMS all concerned that it will regard a significant act in violation of these policies to be reason to terminate the membership of an organization in accordance with Article III, Section 2, Para. (g) of the RI Constitution.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Baguio
22-23 January 1978

The International Symbol of Access

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Baguio, the Philippines, January 22-23, 1978:

HAVING in 1969 approved and adopted the concept and the design of the International Symbol of Access as recommended by the International Committee on Technical Aids, Housing and Transportation (ICTA);

HAVING MADE THE SYMBOL FREELY AVAILABLE to all mankind so that its use might contribute to the protection of the human rights of all disabled persons and specifically to an improvement in the availability to disabled persons of the resources and facilities of the communities in which they live;

HAVING IN 1974 established certain principles pertaining to use of the Symbol;

RECOGNIZING the adoption in 1975 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons which sets forth the basic human rights of all disabled people;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Symbol has been widely accepted for the purposes intended by the Assembly, that it has been officially adopted by many public and private authorities and that its use is increasingly evident throughout the world;

BELIEVING that the proper use of the Symbol has not only assisted millions of disabled persons in locating, identifying and being able to use accessible facilities, but also has created a more general awareness of the problems of accessibility faced by disabled persons and thus helped to stimulate action to eliminate environmental barriers;

CONCERNED, however, that the use of the Symbol for more general purposes or in forms other than that approved by the Assembly distorts the intent of the Assembly and reduces the value of the Symbol as an easily and internationally recognizable identification of facilities accessible to disabled persons;

PROCLAIMS the following policies to govern use of the International Symbol of Access:

1. The Symbol shall always be used in the design and proportions approved by the Assembly, a reproduction of which shall be disseminated with this resolution. The color used for the Symbol shall be white on a dark blue background, to conform with international road sign conventions, unless there are compelling reasons to use other colors. The figure should face to the right,

unless there are directional reasons for it to face left.

2. No change in or addition to the Symbol design shall be permitted. The basic symbol may be used in conjunction with additional signs or texts for directional or identification purposes, as long as they do not distort the integrity of the Symbol.
3. The symbol shall be displayed only to identify, mark or show the way to buildings and facilities that are accessible to and usable by all persons whose mobility is restricted, including wheelchair users.
4. The standards of accessibility to be applied should be determined by the responsible authorities in each country in accordance with the minimum functional standards adopted by the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Barrier-Free Design in 1974. (see attachment)
5. Reproduction of the Symbol of Access is prohibited except in published material and other media intended to promote popularization and universal recognition of its purpose. Even then it must be clearly and conspicuously labeled as "Symbol of Access" unless it appears in publications and media whose content is directly relevant to accessibility.
6. Use of the Symbol of Access for commercial purposes is forbidden, e.g., as in advertising, as a trademark, on letterhead design, or on articles and products made for and by the handicapped. It may, however, be used to identify or advertise the accessibility of commercial premises.
7. Affiliated National Organizations of Rehabilitation International may obtain national legal protection of the Symbol and control of its use in accordance with the policies stated in this resolution, or they may encourage appropriate authorities to undertake these functions. In countries where there are no Affiliated National Organizations, Rehabilitation International may authorize in writing other agencies to carry out such actions.

REGRETS that the Symbol of Access is sometimes used for other than its intended purpose. This has occurred where no other adequate symbol apparently exists to serve a particular need of disabled people, e.g., to identify disabled drivers, to signal distress, or for other identification purposes. In addition, the Symbol has sometimes been found inadequate to indicate special design features or equipment for people with certain types of disability.

REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL to constitute a working group to examine the need for additional signs in further detail in collaboration with the Rehabilitation International Commission on Technical Aids, Housing and Transportation, and with other appropriate international bodies;

URGES the International Organization for Standardization to adopt the Symbol of Access as a standard international symbol, and to establish, in consultation with Rehabilitation International, international standards for barrier-free design and construction;

EMPHASIZES the importance of advising disabled people of the availability of accessible facilities. It likewise affirms the importance of pursuing actively public education campaigns on access and on the correct use of the Symbol to acquaint urban planners, architects, government officials, and the general public with the principles set forth in this resolution;

REQUESTS ALL GOVERNMENTS to recognize that all new construction of public buildings, transport and facilities should permit equal access to all members of the community. The basic principles of barrier-free design should be observed as well in construction of the public areas of all

dwellings, in some of the dwellings themselves, and in recreational facilities. Existing buildings and facilities should be adapted whenever possible to conform to these same principles;

APPEALS to all concerned to seek the widest possible use of the Symbol in the manner specified in this resolution, and to avoid any use of the Symbol that is not in accord with these policies and thus does not respect the intent of the Assembly to assist in protecting the human rights of disabled persons;

REQUESTS the member organizations of Rehabilitation International and all cooperating national and international bodies, including especially organizations of disabled people, to make the contents of this resolution known using all available channels of communication.

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Barrier-Free Design

The following criteria were recommended as minimum functional standards:

1. **WALKWAYS.** The functional requirements of walkways is to provide a hard surfaced route sufficiently wide to permit a person in a wheelchair to traverse it with safety. If it is a lengthy or busy walkway, it should be so constructed that at some point along the route space is provided for a wheelchair to be turned around or to pass another.
2. **WIDTH OF CORRIDORS.** Corridors should be wide enough to permit a person in a wheelchair to traverse it avoiding conflict with the swing of doors, the intrusion of elements of the structure including columns and piers, fixtures - including drinking fountains - and equipment and to permit the passage of more than one wheelchair or for one to turn about should the corridors be of a length or have usage that would make such incidents likely.
3. **DOORS AND ENTRANCES.** At least one entrance to every building used by the public should be ground level or ramped to provide access to persons in wheelchairs. Entrances with vestibules should provide space to open the door and allow the wheelchair to pass through easily. On the opening sides of each door, some clearance must be allowed. Doors must be designed to open easily, and have hardware actuated by a simple push or pull action.
4. **WASHROOMS AND TOILETS.** Public washrooms and toilet rooms should permit easy passage of a wheelchair and allow the occupant to enter the stall, close the door, and transfer to the WC, from either a frontal or lateral position. It is advisable to mount one movable grab bar on both sides of the WC or one movable grab bar and one fixed to the adjacent wall. The public toilet should have basins; towel dispensers, mirrors, etc. mounted at a height that is usable by persons in wheelchairs. Turning space for the wheelchair should be provided when possible. For a possible request for assistance an alarm system is advisable.
5. **LIFTS (ELEVATORS).** Lifts should be large enough to carry at least one wheelchair passenger and an attendant. The clear width of the door opening should be as defined in point c. The control panel and an emergency system should be within reach of a seated person.
6. **PARKING AREAS.** Although automobiles vary in size from country to country, parking spaces reserved for handicapped drivers should allow sufficient clear space between parked cars to allow a driver to transfer to a wheelchair.
7. **GRADIENT OF RAMP.** Ramps should be avoided where possible. Where they are necessary, the slope of a ramp should not be too steep to prevent a person in a wheelchair from propelling himself independently. If the ramp is over 9 meters (about 30') long, it should have intermediate landings. Short ramps should not exceed 1:12, long ramps should preferably be 1:20 max.
8. **HEIGHT ABOVE FLOOR OF SWITCHES AND CONTROLS.** Control panels, emergency systems, electric switches, door and window hardware that must be manipulated by hand be placed so that they are within reach of a person seated in a wheelchair. Hardware should be selected for easy use by handicapped persons.
9. **THRESHOLDS.** Thresholds should be discouraged throughout buildings. Where they are

essential, the maximum height should be .025 m. (1") to allow passage of a wheelchair.

10. **HANDRAILS.** Handrails suitable for gripping can make it possible for persons with some mobility to navigate steps, ramps, etc. They should be mounted 0.90 m. (ab.3') above the floor.
11. **FLOORS.** Floor surfaces should be of non-skid material and of a texture to minimize resistance to the movement of a wheelchair.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Lisbon, Portugal
1-3 June 1984

Participation of Disabled Persons

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, June 1-3, 1984:

REINFORCES the resolution on participation of disabled persons, their families and their organizations, adopted in Winnipeg, June 1980 as a statement of general policy;

REQUESTS the incoming Executive Committee to create a new committee to study the subject in all of its facets. The committee should include high-level representatives from member organizations with the greatest experience in the problem and senior officials whose knowledge of the precedents and requirements of Rehabilitation International can be drawn upon. The committee should be requested to prepare for submission to the Assembly at its meeting in 1986 a report which analyzes all relevant issues, proposes necessary actions and, if in accord with its findings, suggests the text of a draft resolution for the Assembly to consider as a replacement of the Winnipeg resolution.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Winnipeg
20-21 June 1980

Participation of Disabled Persons

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 20-21, 1980:

1. Restating that full participation by disabled persons, their families and their organizations has been and continues to be the policy of Rehabilitation International;
2. Aware that in many countries increased organizational activity by persons with disabilities is taking place and is influencing the planning and provision of rehabilitation services and the structure of work in this field;
3. Recalling the resolution adopted by the Assembly in Baguio, Philippines, January 23, 1978, which stated that Rehabilitation International should recognize these developments and should "utilize to a greater degree the contribution of disabled people and the families of disabled people in the formulation of its policy;"
4. Taking into consideration the recommendations approved by the Council at its meeting in Mulhouse, France, March 27-29, 1979, after receiving the report of an Ad Hoc Committee established by the Assembly for this purpose;
5. Affirms that it is the policy of Rehabilitation International to:
 - (a) Require and assist the full and decisive participation in Rehabilitation International of organizations of disabled people.
 - (b) Provide that, after 1984, a requirement for membership in Rehabilitation International shall be that each member organization has adopted a policy of requiring and assisting the full participation in its governance of organizations of disabled people.
 - (c) Urge present member organizations to adopt as soon as possible and no later than 1988 the policy stated in the previous paragraph.
 - (d) Continue to actively encourage the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels in Rehabilitation International's governing bodies.
 - (e) Provide at all meetings of Rehabilitation International, when needed and feasible, provisions for sign language interpretation for the deaf and readers for the blind.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Lisbon
1-3 June 1984

Participation of Disabled Persons

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, June 1-3, 1984:

WHEREAS the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons was and is full participation and equality,

AND WHEREAS the Rehabilitation International Assembly has shown some concern for the participation of disabled people in past activities;

AND WHEREAS the impact of a similar resolution not accepted at the World Congress in 1980 was not fully comprehended,

BE IT RESOLVED that Rehabilitation International examines its structure and process to insure that member organizations have equal representation of disabled people on their governing bodies and that this be applicable to their international structure,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member organizations will include at least equal representation of disabled people on their governing bodies and that this be applicable to their international structure,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member organizations will include at least equal representation of disabled people in their delegations to the Rehabilitation International Assembly,

And that a report on the progress in implementation of the above resolutions be presented at the next Assembly.



Policy Relative to International Meetings

(Approved by Assembly, 20-21 June 1980)

1. The following statement of policy will apply to all meetings with which Rehabilitation International has an official association and will be applied by the governing bodies of the organization, by its Standing Commissions and by its regional structures in making all decisions relevant to Rehabilitation International participation in such meetings.
2. Rehabilitation International participation takes one of the following forms:
 - a. Rehabilitation International meetings, including world congresses, regional meetings, seminars of the standing commissions and others that are organized by Rehabilitation International, by one of its Standing Commissions, by one of its regional structures or by a host organization under the auspices of Rehabilitation International. This is **Category I** participation. Rehabilitation International may invite other organizations to co-sponsor, sponsor or cooperate in such meetings.
 - b. Meetings organized by another organization, including member organizations, which are sponsored by Rehabilitation International. This is **Category II** participation.
 - c. Meetings organized by another organization with the cooperation of Rehabilitation International, but without its accepting responsibility for the general policies of the meeting. This is **Category III** participation.
3. Under each heading below the criteria governing each category of participation are explained, using the roman numerals listed above.

Purpose and Subject Matter

- I. The Rehabilitation International Assembly, a Standing Commission or a regional structure shall determine the purpose, subject matter and theme, taking into account the recommendations of the host organization.
- II. The Rehabilitation International Assembly, a Standing Commission or a regional structure shall agree to proposals concerning purpose, subject matter and theme before sponsorship is authorized.
- III. It will be determined that the purpose, subject matter and theme are in harmony with the objectives of Rehabilitation International.

Program

- I. The Rehabilitation International Assembly, a Standing Commission or a regional structure, working through the world Secretariat or a detached Secretariat, shall prepare the program or,

if it is agreed in advance by the Assembly, shall delegate this responsibility to a host organization with specific conditions of supervision.

- II. The Rehabilitation International Executive Committee, a Standing Commission or a regional structure shall, before agreement to sponsor is given, satisfy itself that the procedures for program planning are in accordance with RI standards.
- III. Rehabilitation International cooperation shall be extended only to meetings whose programs are judged to be relevant to the objectives of Rehabilitation International.

Participation

- I. The Rehabilitation International Assembly, a Standing Commission or a regional structure shall decide the basis of participation -- i.e. an open meeting, participation by invitation only, who shall be invited.
- II. Before agreement to sponsor is given it shall be determined that the policies concerning participation are in accordance with Rehabilitation International policies.
- III. Before agreeing to cooperate in a meeting, it shall be determined that the policies relative to participation do not violate any Rehabilitation International policies.

Access (Physical)

- I. Meetings organized under Rehabilitation International auspices shall take place in facilities that are completely accessible to disabled persons including those confined to wheelchairs. It shall also be verified that a sufficient number of fully accessible living accommodations exist convenient to the meeting site. All meetings will include, when needed and feasible, provisions for sign language interpretation for the deaf and readers for the blind.
- II. Same as I.
- III. Same as I.

Economy

- I. To facilitate the participation of a maximum number of concerned persons, including especially persons with disabilities, it is strongly recommended that meetings be organized on university campuses or in other settings where food and lodging is available at the lowest possible cost. When this is not possible, it is mandatory that some low-cost living accommodations be available for those who prefer them. It is also recommended that planning take into account opportunities for least expensive travel, that meetings be grouped when possible to reduce travel costs, and that all facilities be as inexpensive as possible.
- II. Same as I.
- III. Same as I.

Access (Political)

- I. Rehabilitation International will not organize a meeting in a nation which excludes the participation of nationals of any other nation in which Rehabilitation International has a member organization.

- II. Rehabilitation International will not sponsor a meeting in a nation which excludes the participation of nationals of any other nation in which Rehabilitation International has a member organization.
- III. Rehabilitation International will not cooperate in a meeting in a nation which excludes the participation of nationals of any other nation in which Rehabilitation International has a member organization.

Contribution to Rehabilitation International

- I. For any meeting organized under Rehabilitation International auspices, an agreed supplement will be added, when possible, to the registration fee, such supplement to constitute a contribution to the general fund of Rehabilitation International. The basis for determining the amount of the addition shall be approved in each instance by the Assembly.
- II. Not applicable.
- III. Not applicable.

Decision Making

- I. Decisions to organize Category I meetings, or to authorize their organization, will be made by the Assembly.
- II. Decisions concerning sponsorship (Category II) will be made by the Secretary General.
- III. Decisions concerning cooperation in meetings will be made by the Secretary General.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Zoetermeer
12-14 October 1982

Policy on International Meetings

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, on October 14, 1982:

AWARE of the important role played by congresses, seminars and other meetings in the international development of activities to benefit people with disabilities;

RECOGNIZING the rapidly increasing costs of organizing and participating in international meetings;

BELIEVING, therefore, that every effort must be made to ensure that international meetings organized by Rehabilitation International produce for the participants maximum results;

REGRETTING the tendency for international congresses to grow in numbers of participants and in complexity of program content, developments which increase the difficulties for disabled persons to move about, to gain information through Braille documents and sign language interpreters, and to take full part in the activities of the meeting;

ADOPTS the following principles to be added as an annex to the RI document, "Policy Relative to International Meetings," and to be applied in the organization of meetings by Rehabilitation International:

1. The program should be restricted to one or a few closely related subjects as far as possible;
2. When appropriate, proposals concerning the program and speakers should be obtained at an early stage of planning from the Standing Commissions of Rehabilitation International;
3. Careful attention should be given so that the facilities for the meeting are appropriate for the anticipated number of participants and their requirements.
4. In the schedule of the meeting adequate program time should be reserved for discussions among participants;
5. Essential information related to the meeting should be provided in forms accessible to all participants, e.g., braille documentation, taped information and sign language interpretation for those who need them.
6. The meeting premises should be organized so as to avoid long indoor and outdoor transportation.

Requests that the content of this resolution also be conveyed to the organizers of international meetings that are sponsored by Rehabilitation International or held with its cooperation, and that they be urged to apply the principles listed above.



Rehabilitation International®

Standard Memorandum of Agreement for the Organization of World Congresses of Rehabilitation International

(Approved by the Council, 10 June 1976)

1. Introduction

This agreement between Rehabilitation International and _____ and any amendments which may subsequently be added to it with the agreement of both parties, constitutes the only and complete undertaking by each of the parties to the other for the organization of the _____ World Congress of Rehabilitation International. The provisions of Article VI of the Constitution of Rehabilitation International, the text of which is appended hereto, become a part of this agreement.

2. Designation

The Congress shall be designated the "_____ World Congress of Rehabilitation International organized by _____ and (if so agreed with the cooperation and/or sponsorship of _____

3. Time and Place

The Congress shall take place in the city of _____ and the country of _____ during the period _____.

4. Organization, Facilities, Arrangements and Schedule

- (a) The practical organization of the Congress, the rental or other procurement of all facilities for the Congress, the arrangements for travel, transportation, hotel and other housing, registrations, hospitality, promotion, tours and professional visits and the time schedule of the Congress and related events shall be the responsibility of the _____ giving due regard to the requirements of the Congress program prepared as specified in Para. 6 below.
- (b) The site of the Congress and all related events will be reasonably architecturally accessible for all disabled persons in accordance with generally accepted criteria.
- (c) The _____ shall appoint a Congress Committee which shall include as ex officio members the President and the Secretary General of Rehabilitation International. The Congress Committee shall implement all responsibilities in connection with the Congress accepted by the _____.
- (d) The President of the Congress shall be nominated by the Congress Committee (or by the _____) and approved by the Assembly of _____.

Rehabilitation International.

5. Theme

The theme of the Congress shall be " _____ "

6. Program

(a) The program of the Congress shall be prepared by the Secretary General of Rehabilitation International in consultation with the Congress Committee, the Affiliated National Organizations and the Standing Commissions of Rehabilitation International. It shall require the approval of the Assembly of Rehabilitation International.

(b) Speakers and other participants in the Congress program shall be selected and invited by the Secretary General of Rehabilitation International following consultations as in Para. 6 a.

(c) The _____ agrees to print and distribute a preliminary program document and a final program document, the contents of each to include the program for the Congress, prepared as specified in Paras. 6a. and b., and such information about the organization of the Congress as is agreed by the Congress Committee.

7. Languages

(a) Simultaneous interpretation in English, _____, _____ and _____ shall be provided by the Congress Committee for all Plenary Sessions of the Congress and for meetings other than Plenary Sessions as follows:

(b) The Congress Program documents shall be published in English, _____, _____ and _____.

8. Proceedings

(The agreement shall specify whether proceedings are to be published and, if so, in what form. It shall allocate responsibility for editing and publishing and state whether the registration fee entitles participants to a copy of the proceedings.

9. Exhibits

Space and facilities for exhibits shall be provided by the Congress Committee. Appropriate and reasonable fees may be charged for the use of such space and facilities and any net income therefrom may be applied to the Congress budget.

10. Finance

(a) The _____ shall be responsible for obtaining the funds to finance the Congress and for the disbursement of such funds, both in accordance with this agreement.

(b) The budget for the Congress shall be prepared by the _____ (or by the Congress Committee, or by such other body as may be agreed in consultation with the Treasurer and Secretary General of Rehabilitation International, and shall be made available to the Assembly of Rehabilitation International.

- (c) Registration fees for the Congress shall be received by the _____. They shall be established in accordance with prevailing rates and the Congress budget and shall include an addition of _____ per cent, such additional income to be transferred to Rehabilitation International.
- (d) Annual financial reports on the Congress accounts shall be submitted to the Treasurer of Rehabilitation International during the period and a complete and final financial report, audited by an accredited chartered or certified accountant, shall be submitted to the Treasurer of Rehabilitation International not later than six months after the close of the Congress.
- (e) Rehabilitation International and the _____ will, so far as possible, provide the time of regular staff for Congress affairs, and such staff time will not be reimbursed from Congress funds. If additional staff is employed, either by the _____ or by Rehabilitation International for specific purposes in connection with the Congress, the resulting expense will be reimbursed from the Congress funds. Such additional staff will be employed only with the prior approval of the Congress Committee (or whatever body is charged with the supervision of expenditures by the host organization. Any other additional expenses incurred by Rehabilitation International in connection with the Congress will be reimbursed from Congress funds only when prior approval of the expenditure is given by the Congress Committee (or whatever body is charged with the supervision of expenditures.
- (f) Provision will be made in the Congress budget to reimburse Rehabilitation International for the travel and living expenses for _____ members of the International Secretariat to be present for the Congress and related events.
- (g) Rehabilitation International shall not be in any way responsible for or liable for financial commitments made by the _____ by the Congress Committee or by any body other than itself in connection with the Congress.

11. Liaison

- (a) The _____ (or the Congress Committee) is responsible for liaison with all organizations, agencies and individuals in the host country, and for inviting and coordinating all participation from the host country, except as provided in Para. 6b.
- (b) Rehabilitation International shall be responsible for liaison with all international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and for inviting and coordinating their representation at the Congress.

12. Disagreements

In case of any disagreement about any matter covered by this agreement, other than the preparation of the program which remains the responsibility of the Rehabilitation International Assembly, the decision of the Congress Committee (or the ?) shall be final. Before making any decision concerning a disputed matter, the Congress Committee will obtain and consider the opinion of the Executive Committee of Rehabilitation International.



Washington, DC
18-20 October 1983

Accessibility of International Meetings

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Washington, D.C., USA, 18-20 October 1983:

REAFFIRMING the policy of Rehabilitation International that all meetings it organizes or sponsors must be held in facilities that are fully accessible to all participants, and that the documentation and other communications for all such meetings will be provided in forms that are accessible to all participants so far as this is feasible;

ATTACHING great importance to the adoption of the same policy by all international organizations, national bodies and others organizing and sponsoring meetings;

RECALLING its resolution of 1978 on "Access of United Nations Meetings and Buildings" directed to each of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and the responses to which have been extremely positive;

BEING AWARE that the information and agreed standards for this purpose are not always available to the organizers of meetings, and that they do not always have the experience and skill needed to ensure the selection of suitable facilities or their modification to comply with agreed standards;

DECIDES to launch an assistance program to ensure that the necessary information, knowledge and skills are available when needed in connection with the preparation of meetings organized by or sponsored by Rehabilitation International;

REQUESTS the Secretary General to prepare a checklist of relevant items to be considered in ensuring that the facilities and communications of meetings are fully accessible to all participants in accordance with agreed standards;

DIRECTS that the above-mentioned checklist be distributed to all RI Member Organizations and to all international organizations;

INFORMS all organizations interested in having Rehabilitation International meetings in their countries, or in having RI sponsorship of meetings, that the Assembly will expect such meetings to be fully accessible;

INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to take all possible action to assist in the accomplishment of the objectives of this resolution, including the arrangements of necessary technical assistance

when necessary;

CALLS UPON the Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International to adopt policy to ensure the full accessibility of their meetings and to encourage similar action by other organizations in their countries; and when possible to assist the Secretary General in providing technical assistance for this purpose.



Zoetermeer
12-14 October 1982

Practical Arrangements for Assembly Meetings

Draft Memorandum of Agreement

1. Rehabilitation International and the (name of organization agree to cooperate in the organization of a meeting of the RI Assembly in (name of location) on (dates). (A minimum of three days of meetings should be anticipated).
2. The (host organization) agrees that it will arrange or provide the following facilities and services at no expense to Rehabilitation International or to the participants in the meeting:
 - (a) A fully accessible meeting room with a capacity to seat a minimum of 125 persons at tables or desks with appropriate seating for the presidency, officers and observers.
 - (b) Appropriate space outside the meeting room for registration, document distribution, offices for the President and for the Secretariat and, if possible, for social gathering of participants during breaks.
 - (c) Personnel to assist in preparation of documentation and its distribution at the meeting, in registration, in the counting of votes, in assisting participants with local and travel arrangements, and in performing the functions listed in Para. 2 e. below.
 - (d) The following equipment and supplies:
 - (1) For document reproduction (either at the site or conveniently located for rapid access).
 - (2) A public address system in the meeting room with microphones accessible to all representatives and to the presidency.
 - (3) Name signs to identify countries, officers and other participants.
 - (e) If needed and requested by any participant:
 - (1) Sign interpretation for participants with impaired hearing.
 - (2) Guides/readers for participants with impaired vision.
 - (3) Transportation for participants with impaired mobility.
3. The host organization will obtain and provide to RI information concerning hotels convenient to the meeting site, ensuring that an adequate number of fully accessible rooms are available. All responsibility for reserving and paying for hotel rooms and services will rest with each participant.

4. The host organization may, at its discretion, offer any or all of the following, attaching whatever conditions it finds to be appropriate so long as all participants have equal opportunities to take part in them.
 - (a) Receptions, dinners, luncheons and other social events offered as hospitality or with an announced charge.
 - (b) Professional visits, tours or combinations of them, as hospitality or with an announced charge.
5. The host organization will decide and announce whether it wishes to provide or arrange facilities and services for meetings of the Standing Commissions before or after the meeting of the Assembly. The details of such arrangements will be the subject of separate agreements between the host organization and the Chairmen of the Commissions concerned.
6. The Secretary General of Rehabilitation International will be responsible for the following:
 - (a) Providing to the host organization all information needed to perform its responsibilities.
 - (b) Preparation and distribution to participants of all necessary information and documentation.
 - (c) Preparation and distribution of the report of the meeting.
 - (d) Establishment of the time schedule for the meeting and related events, taking into account decisions of the Assembly and Executive Committee and the convenience of the host organization.
 - (e) Providing the international secretariat required for the conduct of the meeting.
7. Neither the host organization nor Rehabilitation International will have any responsibility for the travel, living or other expenses of the Officers, Representatives, Alternates, Observers, or accompanying persons participating in the meeting.
8. Any additional provisions that may be necessary because of the circumstances and that do not conflict with the above provisions, may be added here when agreed upon by the host organization and by the Executive Committee of RI.



**Rehabilitation
International**

assembly

RESOLUTION

Zoetermeer
12-14 October 1982

Scheduling Rehabilitation International Meetings

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, on October 14, 1982:

DECIDES:

THAT the Secretary General, after consultation with the member organizations of Rehabilitation International and the Chairmen of the Standing Commissions, shall produce proposals at the 1983 Assembly meeting for the dates and venues of Assembly meetings in 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987 and, at each subsequent Assembly, the date and venue of the Assembly meeting to be held four years from the date of that Assembly.

THAT all regional meetings of Rehabilitation International and all meetings of Rehabilitation International Standing Commissions should be planned in consultation with the Secretary-General in order to allow participants to combine attendance at meetings in order to save expense.



Rehabilitation International

Policy on Regional Structure and Activity

Approved October 19, 1983

1. As a major means of carrying out its objectives, it is the policy of Rehabilitation International to encourage and assist cooperation among the people, organizations and countries in the various regions, and to create and support regional structures for this purpose.
2. The purposes of the regional structures shall be:
 - (a) To provide representation as appropriate for Rehabilitation International in their regions;
 - (b) To assist the governing bodies and the Secretariat of Rehabilitation International with information about their regions, recommendations for appropriate regional action, and in other ways as may be required.
 - (c) To conduct activities that are in accord with the wishes of the Member Organizations in their regions and with the policies and activities approved by the governing bodies of RI.
3. The Assembly will recognize as Regional Committees of Rehabilitation International those regional structures that meet the following criteria:
 - (a) All full voting member organizations of the regional structure shall be members of the regional structure unless the Assembly shall approve an exception.
 - (b) All Affiliated National Organizations of RI in the region concerned shall be members of the regional structure unless the Assembly shall approve an exception.
 - (c) The regional structure shall have adopted by-laws the provisions of which are in harmony with the Constitution of Rehabilitation International and with this statement of policy on "Regional Structure and Activity."
4. Recognized Regional Committees shall perform the following functions:
 - (a) Organize annual meetings of the Regional Committee and such other meetings as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.
 - (b) Disseminate to the Member Organizations in the region information about the Regional Committee, about regional activities and about other matters of particular interest to the Member Organizations.
 - (c) Plan and carry out, or assist in the planning and carrying out of activities approved by the Regional Committee.
 - (d) Submit to the RI Nominating Committee, when the Regional Committee approves, suggestions relative to the nomination of an individual to serve as Vice President of

Rehabilitation International for the region.

5. Support for the activities of a Regional Committee shall be obtained in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) The financial obligations to RI of a Member Organization of Rehabilitation International, as defined in the RI Constitution, shall not be reduced or affected by participation in a Regional Committee.
 - (b) A Regional Committee may establish a budget to assist in the performance of its functions.
 - (c) Funds to meet the cost specified in the budget may be obtained by the Regional Committee:
 - (1) By seeking contributions from the Member Organizations in the region;
 - (2) By seeking contributions from other sources in consultation with the Secretary General;
 - (3) From Rehabilitation International should the Assembly at any time find it possible to include in the General Fund Budget of RI provision for assistance to Regional Committees.
 - (d) It is hoped that Member Organizations in the region will volunteer to provide, for stipulated periods of time, Detached Secretariats to provide the administrative services required by the Regional Committee.
6. Proposals for the organization of general regional conferences shall require the prior approval of the Assembly, which shall ensure that all provisions of existing RI policy concerning sponsorship of international meetings are complied with.
7. Prior to the recognition of a qualified Regional Committee in any region, the Vice President of RI elected for the region shall be responsible to encourage and assist the Member Organizations in the creation of a regional structure eligible for recognition. Until such recognition takes place, the Vice President shall advise the Assembly and the Secretariat concerning the requirements and activities of the region.
8. The regions of Rehabilitation International are as follows:
 - Africa
 - Arab Region
 - Asia and the Pacific
 - Caribbean
 - Europe
 - Latin America
 - North America
9. The Assembly may determine that it is advantageous to designate "sub-regions" and to recognize sub-regional structures when geographic or other circumstances limit the possibility of full regional organization.

10. Guidelines for the operation of Regional Sub-Commissions of the Standing Commissions are:

- (a) Each Standing Commission may establish one or more Regional Sub-Commissions.
- (b) The regions used for this purpose shall be as defined by the Assembly for Rehabilitation International activity.
- (c) Each sub-commission will be composed of all members of the Standing Commission of which it is a part who reside in the region concerned. Additional members may be appointed by the chairman of the sub-commission with the prior approval of the chairman of the Standing Commission and of the National Secretary for the nation in which the individual resides; or, if there is no National Secretary, with the prior approval of the President.
- (d) The chairman of the sub-commission will be designated by the chairman of the Standing Commission of which it is a part.
- (e) Each sub-commission will act within the policies established by the Rehabilitation International Assembly and by the Standing Commission of which it is a part.
- (f) Each sub-commission will launch specific activities such as meetings, publications, surveys and others only with the prior approval of the chairman of the Standing Commission of which it is a part, that chairman acting with the approval of the Secretary General and the President.
- (g) Each sub-commission will launch any fund raising activity only with the prior approval of the Standing Commission of which it is a part and of the Executive Committee.
- (h) Each sub-commission will designate an individual to be responsible for liaison with the Rehabilitation International Vice President in the region concerned, and to inform him or her of all plans and activities.
- (i) Each sub-commission will submit a full report of its activities at least once a year to the chairman of the Commission of which it is a part, to the Rehabilitation International Vice President for the region concerned and to the Secretary General.

11. Special Provision for Asia and the Pacific: Any Regional Sub-Commission formed in the Asian and Pacific Region should designate a representative to serve on the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific as an ex-officio liaison member.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Winnipeg
20-21 June 1980

Re-definition of the Areas Covered by Regional Structures

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 20-21, 1980:

RESTATING its commitment to the development of effective regional structures as important instruments for obtaining maximum participation in the efforts of Rehabilitation International to accomplish its objectives;

RECOGNIZING that the areas covered by regional structures must be defined so that maximum communication and cooperation is possible, and that developments within the regions may from time to time require re-definition of those areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recommendation of the Regional Committee for East Asia and the Pacific that its name be changed to "Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific;"

DECIDES that the areas to be covered by regional structures will be as follows:

- (a) Africa: The continent of Africa south of the Sahara Desert.
- (b) Asia and the Pacific: The continent of Asia from Pakistan to Japan, Australasia, and the islands of the Pacific west of the United States.
- (c) Caribbean: The islands of the Caribbean Sea.
- (d) Europe: The continent of Europe, Iceland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the islands of the Mediterranean Sea, and Israel.
- (e) Latin America: The continent of South America and the countries of Central America including Mexico.
- (f) North America: Canada and the United States of America.
- (g) A new region to include, to the extent desired by the countries involved, Asia west of Pakistan, the Middle East, and Africa north of the Sahara Desert. The definition and designation of this new region will be decided after consultations with organizations in the countries concerned.

AUTHORIZES any member organization to elect to participate in the activities of a region other than as defined above when considerations of language, culture and communications will lead to improved possibilities of cooperation.



Rehabilitation International

BY-LAWS

THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Establishment

1. Subject always to the provisions of the Constitution of Rehabilitation International (RI) and the policies of the RI Assembly, the following By-laws relating to the conduct of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (the Regional Committee) shall apply and become effective as from 11 June 1987.

Objects

2. (a) The objects for which the Regional Committee shall be established are those set out in the Constitution of Rehabilitation International and in particular to promote, facilitate and develop the work of Rehabilitation International in Asia and the Pacific Region by representing and assisting it in coordinating rehabilitation programmes in the region.
- (b) To ensure the equal participation of people with disabilities in the activities of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific.
- (c) To promote RI membership of countries in the region.
- (d) To establish closer relations between countries in the region and to enable these countries through meetings to get acquainted with programmes and methods of work in the region.
- (e) To make known and interpret policies, activities, methods of work and programmes of RI and to put forward motions referring to important problems of the region.
- (f) To define and review the specific needs of the people with disabilities of the region relevant to the activities and objectives of the World Commissions of RI and to make recommendation to RI for world action.
- (g) To provide an information service and issue publications.
- (h) To undertake research in any aspect of rehabilitation and issue report of findings.
- (i) To promote and co-ordinate courses of study in rehabilitation in the region and provide opportunities for rehabilitation personnel to undertake courses of study in each or any area of rehabilitation.
- (j) To facilitate exchange of personnel of countries in the region.
- (k) To encourage the operation of services for unmet needs of the people with the disabilities in the region.
- (l) To organize regional conferences, seminars and workshops.

- (m) To promote any other activities which may benefit the people with disabilities in the region.
- (n) To receive, use, hold, apply contribution, donation, bequests and endowments.

Membership & Voting

3. (a) Any Affiliated National Organization of Rehabilitation International in the Asia and the Pacific Region shall qualify to be a voting member of the Regional Committee. Each country shall be entitled to only one vote irrespective of the number of affiliated national organizations in the same country.
- (b) A country shall be entitled to nominate two representatives to the Regional Committee, one of whom shall be the National Secretary of the same country or his/her nominated substitute.
- (c) Voting by written proxies is permitted. No country shall hold more than two proxies at the same meeting.
- (d) Associated Members and International Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International in the Region may become non-voting members of the Regional Committee.
- (e) One-third of the members qualified to vote personally present shall form a quorum.

Executive Board and Officers of the Regional Committee

4. (a) The management and control of the Regional Committee shall, subject to the control of the General Assembly of RI, be vested in an Executive Board which consists of the officers.
- (b) The officers of the Regional Committee shall be:
 - Chairman**, being the Vice-President of Rehabilitation International for Asia and the Pacific Region for the time being who shall, ipso facto, be the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Regional Committee.
 - Deputy Chairman**, being the Deputy Vice-President of Rehabilitation International for Asia and the Pacific Region for the time being.
 - Immediate Past Surviving Chairman**
 - Not less than two and not more than five Vice-Chairmen**
 - Hon. Secretary-Treasurer**

The Chairmen of the following Sub-Commissions and Sub-Committees:

Sub-Commissions	Recreation and Sports
Education	Sub-Committees
Vocational	Information
Social	
ICTA	
Organization and Administration	
Medical	

Staff Training

- (c) The Executive Board members shall serve a term of office of four years. The members other than the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, shall be elected in the Regional Committee Assembly in the year in which the World Congress of Rehabilitation International takes place.
- (d) Any casual vacancy may be filled up by the decision of the Executive Board. Such appointment shall be ratified in an earliest Regional Committee Assembly.
- (e) Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least once a year at the time and place specified by the Executive Board. One-third of the Executive Board Members, with one of those present must either be the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman or a Vice-Chairman personally present, shall form a quorum. 30 days notice shall be given.
- (f) The office of any Executive Board member of the Regional Committee shall, ipso facto, be vacated if:
 - (i) he/she ceases to be associated with an Affiliated National Organization;
 - (ii) he/she resigns his/her seat on the Executive Board;
 - (iii) he/she becomes an insolvent;
 - (iv) his/her Affiliated National Organization ceases to be a voting member of Rehabilitation International;
 - (v) if he/she dies.

Sub-Commissions and Other Sub-Committees

- 5. (a) The Regional Committee Assembly may, subject to the Constitution of Rehabilitation International establish Sub-Commissions and other Sub-Committees which shall serve to expand and strengthen the program activities of Asia and the Pacific Region and to advise the Regional Committee Assembly on matters pertaining to particular fields of competence.
- (b) Sub-Commissions may be composed of individuals named by the Affiliated National Organizations and Associated Members in each country and by Regional International Member Organizations, and of such additional persons as the Chairmen of the Sub-Commissions in consultation with the Chairman of the Region may appoint. The terms of office of Sub-Commission Members shall coincide with those of the Executive Board.
- (c) Other Sub-Committees established by the Regional Assembly will be composed and appointed in accordance with the directions of the Regional Committee Assembly and will function for a period specified by the Regional Committee Assembly.
- (d) Chairmen of sub-commissions and sub-committees of the Region shall be nominated and appointed by the Executive Board subject to the confirmation of the Chairmen of the respective World Commissions and Committees and the National Secretaries for the nations in which the nominees reside.

Regional Committee Assembly and Conference Finance

6. (a) Assembly of the Regional Committee shall be held once in every two years at such time and in such place as the Executive Board shall from time to time determine. The Regional Committee Assembly may be held immediately before or after the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific or the World Congress takes place.
- (b) A Conference of the Regional Committee shall, subject to the approval of Rehabilitation International Assembly and the Executive Board of the Regional Committee, be held once every four years.

Accounts and Audit

7. (a) The Regional Committee may accept contributions and donations whether in cash or kind, for all or any of the objects herein. Rehabilitation International shall not be held responsible for any deficit or liabilities of the Regional Committee.
- (b) The funds shall be managed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer. The Hon. Secretary-Treasurer and any one of them jointly shall operate the bank account of the Regional Committee.
- (c) The Executive Board shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to: (i) all sums of money received and expended by the Regional Committee and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place; and (ii) the assets and liabilities of Regional Committee.
- (d) The books of account shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Board shall think fit, and shall always be open to the inspection of the Executive Board members and the Secretary General of RI.
- (e) The Executive Board shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the accounts and books of the Regional Committee or any of them shall be open to the inspection of members and no member (not being an Executive Board member) shall have any right of inspecting any account or book or document of the Regional Committee except as authorized by the Executive Board.
- (f) The Executive Board shall biannually cause to be prepared and to be laid before the Rehabilitation International Assembly and the Regional Committee Assembly such income and expenditure accounts, balance sheet, and reports of the Regional Committee.
- (g) A copy of every balance sheet and report which is to be laid before the Regional Committee Assembly, together with a copy of the auditor's report, shall not less than one month before the date of the meeting be sent to every member of the Regional Committee and the Secretary General of RI.
- (h) The Regional Committee shall at each Regional Committee Assembly elect an outside auditor or auditors to hold office until the next Regional Committee Assembly. A member of the Executive Board shall not be eligible for election as auditor.

Trustees

8. (a) There shall be three trustees, who shall be nominated by the Executive Board, and shall be appointed by a resolution passed at a Regional Committee Assembly. Whenever any trustee shall die, desire to be discharged, or become incapable of acting, a successor of such trustee shall, as soon as convenient, be nominated and appointed in like manner, so that the original number of trustees may be kept up. No trustee shall hold any salaried office under the Regional Committee.
- (b) All freehold or leasehold property, stocks, funds, shares, and other securities, the property of Regional Committee, shall be vested in the trustees for the time being, but shall be subject to the control of the Executive Board, and no part of the property of Regional Committee shall be sold, assigned, transferred, conveyed or otherwise disposed of by the trustees without the authority of the Executive Board.

Interpretation

9. Any question which may arise in connection with the interpretation of these clauses shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Amendments

10. These By-laws may be amended by a resolution of not less than two-third majority of the members qualified to vote personally present in a Regional Committee Assembly. The proposed amendment shall be circulated in writing to all members of the Regional Committee not less than one month prior to a Regional Committee Assembly at which voting on the amendment is to be taken.

Dissolution

11. The Regional Committee may be dissolved by resolution of the two-third majority of its members qualified to vote. Any surplus assets of the Regional Committee after dissolution shall be transferred to Rehabilitation International. Rehabilitation International shall not be held responsible for any deficit or liabilities of the Regional Committee after the dissolution.

Rehabilitation International

12. The Regional Committee is responsible to Rehabilitation International Assembly for all its decisions and action.



Madrid, Spain
18-19 October 1989

Resolution on Technical and Economic Cooperation for Developing Countries

*Proposed by the Spanish National Institute
of Social Services (INSERSO)*

The Rehabilitation International Assembly in its Madrid meeting, to be held the 18th and 19th October 1989;

CONSIDERING the difficulties that the developing countries have to mobilize appropriate resources in order to meet the pressing needs of persons with disabilities;

CONSIDERING that it is precisely in such countries where there are the highest disability rates and the most disadvantageous situations;

IN VIEW OF the Recommendations proclaimed in the RI Charter for the 80s with regard to international cooperation, where the need is stated to reinforce the international exchange of information, technical experience, research and innovation in the fields of disability prevention and rehabilitation (Art. 71 of the Charter) as well as the role that the non-governmental organizations should play in coordination with the United Nations activities;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the United Nations World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons establishes the need to intensify and to unite the efforts both from international and non-governmental organizations (Art. 107/179 of the World Programme of Action) to collaborate in technical and economic cooperation;

POINTING OUT the Conclusion of the World Expert Meeting on the Midpoint of the Decade of the Disabled Persons, held in Stockholm, August 1987, about the continuation of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, where reference is made to the scarce progress that has been made, especially in the developing countries, "where the disabled persons are twice at a disadvantage both by the economic and social conditions and where the situation of many disabled persons could even have worsened in the last five years";

IN VIEW OF the previous resolutions adopted in this sense by the RI governing Assemblies in 1984 in Lisbon and in 1988 in Tokyo;

PROPOSES

To give priority to the RI efforts and activities related to technical cooperation towards the developing countries;

- To focus the activities of the RI National Secretaries in the most developed countries on the promotion through their governments and through non-governmental organizations, national as well as international, of actions for technical and economic cooperation for disabled persons in the most disadvantaged countries by means of bilateral cooperation among governments or multilateral cooperation through the international organizations of the United Nations.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Tokyo
2-3 September 1988

DEVELOPMENT AID

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Tokyo, Japan, 2-3 September 1988:

NOTING THAT:

1. Most of the development aid provided by governments of the developed nations to governmental bodies of the developing nations does not reach disabled people.
2. These bilateral agreements often do not involve the disability organizations in the developing countries in the negotiation stages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The RI Assembly recommends to the governments of developed nations, the United Nations bodies and their specialized agencies and development aid giving agencies in the richer countries to consult with disability organizations in the Third World about projects to be considered for funding, especially at the negotiation stage.

In addition, individuals and representatives of organizations concerned with disability in developing countries should be involved in governmental negotiations concerning bilateral aid projects related to disability.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Ofir
19-21 September 1974

Increased Priority to Technical Assistance for Rehabilitation

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International meeting in Ofir, Portugal, September 19-21, 1974:

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the numbers of physically and mentally disabled persons in the world are increasing more rapidly than the various countries are expanding their services to assist such persons, and that more than 300,000,000 disabled children and adults are without the rehabilitation and other help they need to enjoy the basic human rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

RECOGNIZING that the efforts of the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assist programs for the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of disabled persons have, for more than 20 years, helped to stimulate action in this field in many countries, and that parallel efforts by national governments and by nongovernmental organizations have also been of major importance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the vital role in this connection of the technical assistance resources made available by the United Nations Development Program;

AWARE that governments, particularly those of the newly developing countries, are confronted by many problems affecting the health and well-being of their citizens, including the problems of physical and mental disability;

BELIEVING that, at both national and international levels, an insufficient priority is given to measures for the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of the disabled; and

RECALLING that it was such circumstances that led Rehabilitation International in 1969 to proclaim the 1970s The Decade of Rehabilitation and to seek intensified worldwide dedication to the improvement and expansion of prevention and rehabilitation programs;

NOTING that Rehabilitation International, through changes in its structure to become more representative of all national activities in this field, through strengthening of its information services, through leadership in improving all areas of communications in the rehabilitation process, through its Standing Commissions which provide international expertise in the educational, medical, social and vocational fields, and through its other activities, is ready to cooperate with all working for these goals;

REASSERTS its conviction that the protection of the rights of the more than ten percent of the population who are disabled and the provision of preventive and rehabilitation services must be a major concern of every society and every government, and that action in this sphere is an essential component of sound economic and social development;

CALLS UPON the United Nations, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF and other international and regional bodies to take all necessary measures to insure that priority and attention commensurate with the dimensions and seriousness of the problems of physical and mental disability be devoted to activities to stimulate and assist governments in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of the disabled;

URGES the United Nations Development Program to expand the volume of its assistance to prevention and rehabilitation projects, to assure that United Nations Resident Representatives are well informed as to the importance and value of such projects, and to facilitate improved communications and cooperation among all those working in technical assistance activities in this field;

REQUESTS national governments and non-governmental organizations also to intensify and expand their activities in this field; and

CHARGES the Affiliated National Organizations and Associate Members of Rehabilitation International to contact and urge the appropriate ministries or departments of their governments to instruct their delegations to the governing bodies of the above-mentioned inter-governmental agencies to support the principles and objectives set forth in this resolution.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Mbabane
21-23 October 1985

The African Rehabilitation Institute

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International meeting in Mbabane, Swaziland October 21-23, 1985:

RECOGNIZES the fact that more than 50 million people in Africa are disabled people, the vast majority of whom lack access to rehabilitation measures of any kind;

NOTES with appreciation the initiative of the Organization of African Unity and the International Labour Organisation with the cooperation of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to create an African Rehabilitation Institute with the purpose of providing a framework for international cooperation in the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the region and to pool all available resources for the benefit of the 50 million disabled persons in Africa;

DRAWS ATTENTION to the endorsement of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity of the recommendations for the creation of the African Rehabilitation Institute adopted at the 1st International Meeting on the ARI, Arusha, Tanzania, January 1985;

EXPRESSES its support for the objectives of the African Rehabilitation Institute;

INDICATES its readiness for Rehabilitation International to be associated with the technical advisory committee of the African Rehabilitation Institute;

DRAWS to the attention of all Rehabilitation International member organizations the importance of this initiative on behalf of disabled people in Africa;

AND REQUESTS all member organizations of Rehabilitation International to take appropriate action in making known and generating support for this historical, regional initiative.



Education Commission

1. To reinforce the Commission's organization giving priority to:
 - creating of Sub-Commissions
 - knowledge of personal and collective potentials among members
 - increase of communication
 - definition of rules under which it operates
2. To increase its contacts with other Commissions and develop common projects.
3. To increase the dialogue between industrialized countries and developing countries.
4. To increase the acceptance of minorities and change of attitudes.
5. To improve teacher training and methodologies evaluation.
6. To increase the dissemination of information.
7. To increase the Commission's professional leadership.
8. To give support to developmental projects mainly in the areas of early detection, pre-school education and community based programs.
9. To increase parental participation in Education.



***Rehabilitation
International***

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Commission on
Leisure, Recreation and Sports**

1. To provide for communications and information exchange on an international basis among individuals and organizations interested in leisure, recreation and sports as related to people with disabilities.
2. To gather information concerning existing programs and research in these fields, to analyze such information and to make the results available to the Assembly, Executive Committee and Secretariat of RI, and to other interested organizations.
3. To identify areas of these subjects which can profit from further international study and consideration through working groups, seminars and other international examination.
4. To advise the Assembly and Executive Committee of Rehabilitation International concerning activities in these fields which might be included in the RI program without duplication or overlapping with existing international action.
5. To ensure that the requirements for leisure, recreation and sports are taken into account as appropriate in policy statements, in programs and in conferences of RI.



Rehabilitation International

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Medical Commission

1. To promote communication between physicians active in Rehabilitation International Member Agencies and through this discussion on matters of national and international concern in the field of rehabilitation.
2. To promote bonds of friendship and professional collaboration between individual Members of the Commission.
3. To strengthen the input of physicians into the work of Rehabilitation International.
4. To promote a wider understanding among Members of the functions of the various International Rehabilitation Organizations, such as the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association (IRMA), International Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IFPM&R) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
5. To provide liaison between Rehabilitation International and the World Health Organization, with particular reference to rehabilitation activities and programmes of the WHO.
6. To organize annual meetings at which topics of national and international interest relating to rehabilitation will be discussed.
7. To reflect on the activities of Rehabilitation International and to make recommendations to the governing body of RI on appropriate issues.
8. To assist in organizing national and regional seminars in response to invitations.
9. To assist in identifying sources of appropriate assistance for problems brought to the attention of the Commission.



Rehabilitation International

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Organization and Administration Commission

1. Purpose

The Commission shall assist in improving the organizational and administrative structures of rehabilitation services and facilities for disability prevention and rehabilitation throughout the world and support and promote all efforts that contribute to a better coordination between the various sectors of rehabilitation services.

2. Main Fields of Work

Structure of programs or services

The Commission provides for an exchange of information and experience in order to facilitate the improvement of organizational and administrative structures of existing programs as well as the building-up of new services. It may study and report on:

- the degree to which programs and services are governmental, quasi governmental through social security or public insurance institutions, voluntary with governmental support or purely voluntary;
- the coordination between the various sectors;
- the different organizational structures of rehabilitation services in countries with different social systems and in industrialized as well as non-industrialized countries.

It can work out

- organizational patterns for specific areas, such as rural areas or slums;
- administrative procedures for the assessment of disabilities.

Program evaluation

To secure the successful operation of programs and services, evaluation is indispensable. The Commission may:

- provide guidelines for studies to evaluate the overall impact of services and programs at the national or local level;
- determine whether the benefits for the disabled population and for the community are commensurate with the investments being made;
- compare the impact of services provided through general institutions with those provided through specialized rehabilitation centers;

- study evaluation methods;
- work out standards for training programs.

Financing of rehabilitation services

The problem of how planned rehabilitation services are to be financed is of importance to all countries and of particular importance to countries in early stages of development. Thus the Commission can study this question and recommend steps to help in its solution.

Specific issues which could be dealt with are:

- funding and accountability in government programs;
- the various methods of collecting and applying social security and insurance funds;
- methods of raising funds from the public for voluntary programs;
- the rule of cost-benefit analysis.

Management

In order to help administrators of rehabilitation service programs, the Commission may compare and provide information on methods and procedures for:

- staff management;
- financial control;
- purchasing;
- buildings and facilities management.

Public information and public relations

International exchange of information, ideas and experience is of great utility to promote the positive objectives of the rehabilitation movement. The Commission may:

- organize the collection, evaluation and dissemination of creative public information material;
- prepare the organizational and administrative basis for studies, on a regional basis, to determine the means of information that are most efficiently used to change negative public attitudes towards disability;
- develop recommended reading lists;
- work out guidelines for the establishment of Resources and Information Centers;
- distribute brochures and other information material on specific issues, e.g. Guides for Disabled Persons or Planning Data for the Construction of a Rehabilitation Center.

Participation of disabled persons

The increasing activism of groups of disabled persons in connection with rehabilitation services and programs has direct relevance to the problems of organization and administration. The Commission is concerned to:

- analyze the role of separate organization of disabled persons;

- work out organizational and administrative measures to carry out surveys of the current situation in a variety of countries;
- support all efforts to increase social integration and full participation of disabled persons in all fields of life.



Rehabilitation International

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Social Commission

1. The Definition of Social Rehabilitation

"Social rehabilitation is a process the aim of which is to attain social functioning ability. This ability means the capacity of a person to function in various social situations towards the satisfaction of his or her needs and the right to achieve maximum richness in his or her participation in society."

2. The Terms of Reference of the Social Commission

It was agreed that these should be the consideration of social rehabilitation and of equalization of opportunities in its social aspects.

Equalization of opportunities means "the process through which the general system of society, such as the physical and cultural environment, housing and transportation, social and health services, educational and work opportunities, cultural and social life, including sports and recreational facilities, are made accessible to all."

Two important principles are:

- (a) Society should be designed to enable full participation by all citizens: it should be seen as a defect of the society if people with disabilities are unable to participate in any activity they wish.
- (b) People with disabilities should be enabled to determine the goals of their rehabilitation and to exercise the same choice as others about their human relationships, the community and the environment in which they wish to live.



***Rehabilitation
International***

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**International
Commission on Technical Aids,
Buildings and Transportation (ICTA)**

The purpose of ICTA is to provide initiatives for the identification of problems and stimulation of understanding and awareness of knowledge concerning technical aids, building and transportation for the benefit of disabled people.

The Revised Terms of Reference are:

1. Determination and exploitation of appropriate models for international cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience.
2. Facilitation of activities of ICTA Information Centre in collecting and disseminating information on technical aids, building and transportation.
3. Initiate conferences and seminars.
4. Initiate, stimulate and coordinate research and developmental activities including functional evaluations and technical assessments.
5. Initiate, stimulate and coordinate testing and standardization programmes.
6. Promote cooperation with other international bodies.

Accordingly, ICTA would work in close cooperation with the ICTA Information Centre whose major functions should be collecting and disseminating information and conducting conferences and seminars.



***Rehabilitation
International***

commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Vocational Commission

1. To provide an international forum for the exchange of ideas and knowledge about the vocational aspects of rehabilitation services which will promote opportunities for the disabled to participate fully in society on an equal basis with the other citizens of their countries.
2. To promote measures leading to maximum productive employment of persons having physical or mental disabilities.
3. To provide an interchange of ideas and knowledge which will advance the technology and understanding necessary for international uplifting of vocational programs for the disabled.
4. To enable more developed countries to assist the less developed countries in dealing more effectively with the vocational problems of disabled persons.
5. To advise the Assembly of Rehabilitation International on policies and programs to accomplish these objectives, and to cooperate actively in implementing activities approved by the Council.



Rehabilitation International®

assembly

RESOLUTION

Lisbon
1-3 June 1984

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, June 1-3, 1984:

WELCOMING the decision of the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming the period 1983-92 the Decade of Disabled Persons;

RECALLING that the Rehabilitation International Decade of Rehabilitation, 1970 to 1980, was the first global mobilization of effort to focus world attention and action on the problems of disablement, and that the interest and concern developed during the Decade of Rehabilitation were essential components of the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981;

RECALLING also that the Rehabilitation International Charter for the 80s was prepared and adopted as a means of continuing the initiatives launched by RI in the Decade of Rehabilitation;

EMPHASIZING that the World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, approved by the U.N. General Assembly for implementation during the Decade of Disabled Persons and thereafter, was derived from the RI Charter for the 80s, and contains similar objectives;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that all of the activities of Rehabilitation International are designed to accomplish objectives that are stated in both the Charter and the World Program of Action, and that the U.N. I.Y.D.P. Trust Fund and the Arab Gulf Development Fund have approved a grant to RI to assist the implementation, with support from the Hong Kong International Rehabilitation Foundation, of ideas contained in both the Charter and World Program;

NOTING that the Council of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped has endorsed the concept of the Decade of Disabled Persons and has decided to place its main emphasis on the Decade and its goals;

RECOGNIZING that International Youth Year in 1985 will provide an additional opportunity to advance the aims of the Charter, World Program and the Decade;

DECIDES that Rehabilitation International support the purposes of the Decade of Disabled Persons as set forth by the U.N. General Assembly;

URGES Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International to continue to plan their programs taking into account the recommendations contained in the Charter for the 80s and the World Program of Action;

SUGGESTS that national Member Organizations of RI, when they find it appropriate, initiate or join in national activities to promote the Decade of Disabled Persons and to draw attention in International Youth Year to the issues of young people and disability;

REQUESTS the Secretary General to consider how Rehabilitation International, within its

available resources, can best give support and assistance to the CWOIH and to other initiatives that may appear to promote the Decade of Disabled Persons at the international level, and to include recommendations in this regard in the Secretary General's proposals for Future Activity plans.



**Rehabilitation
International®**

assembly

RESOLUTION

Tel Aviv
11-12 June 1976

**United Nations Declaration
on the Rights of Disabled Persons**

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, June 11-12, 1976,
BELIEVING that the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1975, is a statement of fundamental rights and that all rehabilitation organizations should exert pressure on their governments to accept and implement the Declaration;

DECIDES that Rehabilitation International will draw up guidelines to assist members to secure the dissemination and implementation of the Declaration.



Beijing, China
23-24 October 1990

RI Assembly Adopts Resolution in Support of World Summit for Children

The RI Assembly Meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 23 to 24 October, 1990:
NOTING the gathering of Heads of State from 70 nations for a World Summit for Children, 30 September, 1990 at the United Nations in New York;

NOTING the importance accorded by the World Declaration of the Summit on the survival, protection, and development of children to "further attention, care, and support to disabled children, as well as to other children in very difficult circumstances";

NOTING, as well, the inclusion of disabled children and their families within the category of "most vulnerable children in especially difficult circumstances" and the call of the World Plan of Action for improved protection of children in such circumstances and the need to tackle the root causes leading to their situations;

AWARE that enormous attention has been given to increasing child survival. At least one in ten children who do survive will have some degree of physical or mental impairment;

BELIEVING that the human rights of children with disabilities must be protected to the same degree as other children. Children with disabilities need what all other children need: the warmth and security of a family and a community and a consistent flow of nurturing. Disability also impacts on the family as a whole.

RECOGNIZING that much can be done to detect disability early and to help the family stimulate the disabled child to learn, to grow, and to take part in the community;

REGRETTING that these simple measures are not yet well known. Disabled children continue to receive far less education, health care, nutrition, or social services than other children in their communities. Traditional stereo-types and negative community attitudes continue to isolate and stigmatize disabled children and their families;

DEPLORING that in circumstances of armed conflict the situation of children and women victims is even worse. For every child who is killed, at least three more are wounded, permanently disabled, or psychologically scarred for life by the trauma of war. Five hundred thousand children are wounded or physically disabled by armed conflict every year. Only 10 to 20 percent of the scant rehabilitation measures available reach women and child victims of conflict;

CALLING ATTENTION to the fact that there are already one hundred fifty million disabled children receiving very little assistance in the developing regions and the situation is worsening

continually. Programs reaching disabled children need to be expanded. They need to reach more children. More trained support personnel are needed and there must be greater public advocacy to open all communities to the participation of disabled children in everyday life.

THEREFORE CALLS UPON all Member Organizations of Rehabilitation International to:

URGE the endorsement by those governments, who have not already done so, of the Declaration and the Plan of Action for implementing the World Declaration on the survival, protection, and development of children in the 1990's;

PROMOTE RATIFICATION of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, drawing attention to the importance of these international agreements as they pertain to the circumstances and rights of disabled children;

WORK with national governments to ensure that national plans of action to be completed prior to the end of 1991 include adequate attention to the situation of disabled children and their families;

FURTHERMORE, RECOGNIZING the special role played by the Rehabilitation International Program of Technical Support on Childhood Disability in implementation of UNICEF programs on childhood disability prevention and rehabilitation;

CALLS upon the United Nations Children's Fund to expand its level of programs and activities to assist disabled children and their families, giving special attention to the situation of disabled women and child victims of armed conflict;

DIRECTS the Secretary General to bring these recommendations to the attention of the Executive Director of UNICEF and the UNICEF Executive Board at its forthcoming meeting in 1991.



**Rehabilitation
International®**

assembly

RESOLUTION

Turku
12-14 June 1987

**Reaffirming Civil, Legal and Political Rights
of All People with Disabilities
Including People with AIDS**

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International meeting in Turku, Finland, 12-14 June 1987:

AFFIRMS the right of all people with disabilities to full civil, legal and political rights;

CALLS on all Governments to ensure that no person with AIDS, with AIDS-related Complex or with positive antibodies to HIV, face discrimination in education, employment, housing, social security, health care or any public welfare programme;

REQUESTS all Governments to consult the representatives of people with AIDS concerning all specific health and education programmes in accord with the principles of the World Programme of Action for the Decade of Disabled Persons;

AND URGES all countries to show the same solidarity in the defeat of AIDS as was demonstrated in the eradication of the smallpox virus.



Tel Aviv
11-12 June 1976

Prevention of Poliomyelitis

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, June 1976:

AWARE that poliomyelitis is a cause of serious disability which is fully preventable through vaccination programs for immunization against the disease;

RECOGNIZING that during the last two decades the disease has been reduced to almost zero incidence in nations which have followed regular immunization programs while its incidence has increased in tropical and sub-tropical nations without such programs; and that widespread epidemics may be anticipated in these regions in the years to come;

NOTING that children under five years of age are the main victims of the disease, and that it is a condition which will become increasingly epidemic as the health and sanitation facilities of developing nations improve;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that an effective immunization program against poliomyelitis must provide the suitably trained health workers, maintenance of a "cold-chain" for transport and storage of live vaccine, public education, adequate administration and coordination, and continuous surveillance and vaccinations of newborn infants;

UNDERSTANDING that these requirements may best be met by inclusion within the basic health services of each nation, and in combination with campaigns against other dangerous childhood diseases;

SUPPORTS the World Health Organization Expanded Program for Immunization and the work of UNICEF which recognizes poliomyelitis as one of the six major disease threats to children, and,

URGES governments to adopt the principles embodied in the Expanded Program for Immunization:

- to make a determined and irreversible decision to extend the benefits of immunization to the bulk of the child population as a permanent service;
- to carry out on-going immunization of children as a routine part of existing health services, if possible within maternal and child care services;
- and to include vaccination programs against poliomyelitis within such programs whenever and wherever they may be both necessary and feasible.

DIRECTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL to bring these principles to the attention of the

governments and organizations of all nations which may face epidemics from poliomyelitis, so that they may initiate planning, before the conclusion of the Decade of Rehabilitation in 1980, to eradicate poliomyelitis as a cause of disability.

REQUESTS the Member Organizations and all other organizations and agencies concerned with disability prevention and rehabilitation to cooperate in this effort and, in particular, to join in urging the governments concerned to take appropriate action.



Rehabilitation International

assembly

RESOLUTION

Tel Aviv
11-12 June 1976

Controls to Reduce Traffic Accidents

The Assembly of Rehabilitation International, meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, June 11-12, 1976,
DEEPLY CONCERNED that injuries resulting from traffic accidents continue to cause a large number of serious disabilities;

RECALLING the resolution, "Controlled Speed of Vehicles," adopted by the Assembly in 1974 which urged steps at all levels to "establish reduced and controlled limits for the speed of vehicles as a permanent safety measure,"

AWARE that measures to reduce the number of traffic accidents and to decrease the hazards of injury resulting from such accidents have in several countries had a significant impact on these problems;

REQUESTS the Secretary General to collect, with the assistance of a working group in consultation with experts in the relevant fields, statistics and other data on measures designed to decrease the number of traffic accidents and to reduce the hazards of serious injury such as the enforcement of reasonable speed limits, the control of drivers who misuse alcohol, the use of seat belts, protective helmets and other safety devices, restriction of vehicle operation by excessively fatigued persons, and others.

SUGGESTS that, if the results of the above survey justify it, the Council should urge all governments to act urgently to enforce reasonable speed limits, to combat the misuse of alcohol, to establish the mandatory use of seat belts and other safety devices, and to take such other steps as may be indicated to reduce the amount of disablement caused by traffic accidents.