

Emergency Resolution

## **Establishing a participative process for developing sustainable and democratic systems and processes within and for IFM-SEI**

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### **Background:**

Over the last couple of years IFM-SEI and its member organizations have had a lot of discussions on making IFM-SEI more participative, decrease barriers and provide the necessary base for all members to be able to actively engage in activities and processes. We think that we can all agree that in the spirit of our vision of a socialist world it must be a common goal to never stop making our organization more democratic, more transparent and more open. By doing so we also need to ensure taking sustainable decisions, tackling the cause and not the symptom of the problem.

### **Current situation:**

At the IC meeting 2021 we will discuss a new voting system based on a proposal by the MDMP Task Force (=More Participatory More Democratic Task Force). We recognize that the task force has put a lot of thought and time into developing this and other proposals and are very grateful for the work they have done to create this suggestion. Nevertheless, the way IFM-SEI currently is developing such proposals only a handful of people can actively participate in these development processes. It is the nature of task forces and working groups to be rather small but efficient which is a good thing when it comes to managing projects. When it comes to making big decisions that affect the whole organization, the structure and way of working of such task forces has a huge downside though: The majority of people within our organization are not part of the process. People that are not part of the working group often cannot understand which discussions lead to certain decisions. That lack of transparency and understanding leads to proposals being only carried by a simple majority or in worst case being rejected by our common decision-making-bodies such as Congress or International Committee Meetings.

### **Suggestion:**

As IFM-SEI member organizations and IFM-SEI we should commit to tackle important topics together. Important processes such as voting rights but also the possible implementation of hybrid meetings should not be 'side-lined' and handed over to a task force including only a very small group of people. They should be discussed openly and honestly by all member organizations. Whether this is with the Regional Network Meetings or statutory bodies such as Congress and International Committee Meetings, we should work on those topics together.

Well-planned and structured rounds of discussions or workshops provide the necessary base for developing a common understanding of each other points of view and therefore leads to much more sustainable decisions. Decisions that are not made by a simple majority of votes but carried by a much broader base or in the best case even by consensus of all member organizations. It should also be considered to establish

time slots in which member organizations have the possibility to feedback decisions to their own boards of officials.

**IFM-SEI and its member organizations commit to:**

- Further developing the voting system as proposed by the MDMP task force until Congress and at Congress 2022
- Establishing processes in which discussions can be held open and honestly giving all members time and opportunity to actively participate especially when it comes to fundamental topics such as membership fees or voting rights.
- Using regional workshops to start discussing structural and political change within IFM-SEI to create further space of participating and support our common goal to find a consensus.
- Increasing the time in our decision-making-bodies such as IC meetings or Congress for those discussions so that decisions can be made on common understanding aiming to find a consensus rather than establishing enough votes to carry resolutions.