



**IFM • SEI**  
international falcon movement  
socialist educational international

International Committee 2021\_18

23-25 April 2021

Virtual

**Inclusive Discussion and language translation  
Resolution**

## **Inclusive discussion and language/translation Resolution Submitted by: MDMP Task Force**

### **Background:**

In the recent International Committees (IC) meetings and in the Congress 2019, the regional representation was unbalanced. This led to the weight of the decision and shaping IFM-SEI has fallen in the hands of few members from Europe and the Middle East. At the IC meeting 2020, a resolution was submitted in order to tackle this issue, pointing out that our internal functioning favours that the richest member organisations and those closest to the centre of the IFM-SEI are the ones that continue to be the protagonists in the decision-making process.

This is why the IC has proposed establishing the More Democratic More Participatory task force to point out the changes necessary to ensure that IFM-SEI does not end up being a reflection of the inequalities of the society in which we live.

### **Current situation:**

One of the problems identified from IC 2020 in IFM-SEI was the **increasingly predominant role of English as the entity's vehicular language** and the increasing need to command it in order to participate. This situation means that the debates are held in English and that they are not structured with the necessary tempos and pauses for translation or the elaboration of ideas. In the end, this can cause people with less domain of the language to participate less or that they are not able to participate in the debate with the same quality. Furthermore, this difference is related to the educational system of each country and therefore with its economic system.

This is reflected in **Article 21** from IFM-SEI Rules of Procedures:

*"Language: Business will be conducted primarily in English. Whispered interpretation shall be provided in the plenary sessions in English and Spanish. Speakers of other languages shall be responsible for their own interpretation. The Secretariat shall be responsible for submitting Congress or International Committee documents in English only."*

Hence this group focused on tackling the language barrier in IFM-SEI in order to ensure that IFM-SEI is taking steps to ensure the inclusion of all its members and to lowering the language barrier. But to provide an inclusive and participatory, and therefore more democratic debate, we need to review our procedures constantly.

**What do we need to do to have no barrier of language?**



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## Inclusive Discussion and language translation Resolution

One of the More Democratic More Participatory IFM-SEI task force aims is to face the language barrier and guarantee the inclusion of all the members and participants. In order to do that, we need:

- To provide simultaneous interpretation where possible or arrange more time within meetings for whisper translation to happen.
- To take advantage of new technologies, when it comes to translation/ interpretation.
- To implement inclusive discussion spaces through small group discussions before plenary discussions.
- To create more awareness about the time needed for translation, as well as communicating in a different language than your mother tongue.
- To add Spanish as well as French as two supporting languages of IFM-SEI.

### Recommendation

Therefore this International Committee agrees that,

- Small groups should be set up before important decisions during IC and Congress. This would ensure more time to discuss topics in small groups and create more understanding and participation.
- For each IC and Congress a part of the budget should be set aside for translation/ interpretation.
- Spanish and French are becoming officially supporting languages within IFM-SEI. This means that:
  - An amendment by Presidium will be put forward at the upcoming Congress, suggesting Spanish and French as two supporting languages within IFM-SEI and adding the following points to the Constitution and Rules of Procedures.
  - The agenda as well as the minutes of the IC and Congress should be sent out in advance in English, French and Spanish.
  - Translation will be offered in Spanish and French at Congress, IC and when possible at Thematic Network meetings, activities and Regional Network meetings.
  - IFM-SEI Secretariat will be responsible for translating the documents in advance with the support of online translating systems and the pool of translators as well as organizing translation/ interpretation together with the hosting organization for IC and Congress.