

IFM-SEI Policy on the Format and Location of the International Committee and Congress

Purpose

This policy establishes IFM-SEI's approach to the format and location of its statutory decision-making bodies, namely the Congress and the International Committee. It seeks to ensure democratic participation, political relevance and organisational sustainability, while balancing commitments to geographic diversity, accessibility and financial responsibility.

Format of statutory decision-making bodies

Within a two-year period, at least one of IFM-SEI's two statutory decision-making bodies, the Congress and the International Committee, shall be held online, unless extraordinary circumstances apply.

As a general principle, the International Committee shall be held online, while the Congress shall be held in person whenever organisational, financial and project-related conditions allow.

Holding at least one statutory meeting online ensures broad and equitable participation by Member Organisations, regardless of financial, logistical or mobility constraints. It significantly reduces costs for both IFM-SEI and its members, responds to the increasing challenges in securing project-based and unrestricted funding, and contributes to a substantial reduction of the environmental impact associated with international travel.

An online meeting is therefore considered the most sustainable and accessible format under current organisational, financial and environmental conditions.

This policy does not preclude the possibility that both the Congress and the International Committee may be held online where required by financial constraints, project availability or other exceptional circumstances. In such cases, IFM-SEI shall be considered to be acting in line with this policy.

Congress location and regional rotation

IFM-SEI recognises the political importance of regional diversity in the organisation of in-person Congresses and remains committed to ensuring regional rotation over time.

At the same time, the location of the Congress shall be determined primarily by the projects planned or anticipated in the year of the Congress, the availability of external funding linked to those projects, and the overall financial and organisational capacity of IFM-SEI and its Member Organisations.

While the intention to regularly rotate Congress locations across different regions is acknowledged and valued, this cannot be guaranteed in every cycle. The choice of location may be constrained by project availability, funding opportunities and broader economic conditions affecting IFM-SEI and its members.

This policy reflects the need to balance political objectives related to regional representation with financial sustainability and organisational responsibility.

Organisational sustainability and rationale

IFM-SEI operates in an increasingly challenging funding environment, where access to project funding and core financial resources is limited and uncertain. Responsible management of available resources is essential to safeguard the organisation's long-term stability, political independence and capacity to fulfil its mission.

The combination of regular online statutory meetings and periodic in-person Congresses allows IFM-SEI to maximise inclusive participation in decision-making processes, reduce financial pressure on Member Organisations, concentrate resources on key in-person political moments, and maintain meaningful and accessible spaces for collective debate and movement-building.

Roles and responsibilities

The Presidium and the IFM-SEI Office are responsible for exploring and identifying potential locations for the Congress, assessing project opportunities and funding availability in relation to proposed locations, evaluating the financial, logistical and organisational viability of different options, taking regional balance into account over time.

All decisions shall be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, sustainability and political responsibility.