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Dear IPA General Assembly Delegates, IPA Presidents, Directors

As Chair of the IPA Membership Committee and on behalf of Bodour Al Qasimi, Jessica Sanger and Kristenn Einarsson — the respective Chairs of our Executive, Copyright, and Freedom to Publish Committees — I am pleased to report to you on applications for IPA membership in 2022.

A. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. New applications 2022

The Membership Committee is recommending to the 2022 IPA General Assembly that the following three applicants (in alphabetical order by country) be granted membership of the IPA: all in the Provisional category:

Guatemala: Asociaci3n Gremial de Editores de Guatemala, AGEG (Provisional)

Mozambique: Associa3o Moambicana de Editores e Livreiros, AMEL (Provisional)

Syria: Syrian Publishers Association, SPA (Provisional)

2. Applications for transition from Provisional to Full Membership 2022

The Membership Committee is recommending that one current IPA Provisional Member be granted Full Membership:

Malaysia: Malaysian Book Publishers Association, MABOPA

B. NEW APPLICATIONS 2022

We received 3 new applications for membership this year. The applicants were vetted initially by the Membership Committee, and then assessed by the IPA’s four Permanent Committees: the Membership Committee, which has oversight of the entire process; the Copyright Committee; the Freedom to Publish Committee; and the Executive Committee. The Assessment Framework (attached) informed the work undertaken by these Committees.

The following table summarizes the four Committees’ recommendations:

Applicant	Membership Category	FtPC	CC	EC	MC
Asociaci3n Gremial de Editores de Guatemala, AGEG	Provisional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Associa3o Moambicana de Editores e Livreiros, AMEL	Provisional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syrian Publishers Association, SPA	Provisional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Committees held multiple conference calls throughout the process and committee members were kept informed of developments. Each Permanent Committee drafted reports of their findings or surveyed their members, which contributed to the complete case files for each applicant. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Membership Committee could not interview the applicants during the London Book Fair as has been the practice in the past. However, we were able to interview them all via Zoom. (For reasons of confidentiality we will not distribute the application files, but if IPA Delegates want to examine any of these documents, please contact Secretary General, José Borghino directly borghino@internationalpublishers.org or on +41 22 704 1820.)

Each Committee agreed on its recommendations by majority consensus and relayed these decisions to the Membership Committee. The CC, EC, FtPC were unanimous in their recommendations about the Asociación Gremial de Editores de Guatemala (AGEG), and the Associação Moçambicana de Editores e Livreiros (AMEL). In the case of the Syrian Publishers Association (SPA) the EC was split with 6 Directors supporting the application, 3 abstaining, and 4 rejecting; the CC was split with 14 supporting, 3 abstaining, and 3 rejecting; and the FtPC supported the SPA's application but recommended that 'Prospects for full membership depend on satisfying promises outlined in the application and responses to follow up questions,' which included providing ongoing evidence of SPA's support for freedom to publish as well as their strengthening the statutory distance between them and the Syrian Government.

Taking into consideration all these recommendations and its own research, the Membership Committee agreed by majority consensus that:

1. **Asociación Gremial de Editores de Guatemala (AGEG)** be accepted into the IPA as an Provisional Member;
2. **Associação Moçambicana de Editores e Livreiros (AMEL)** be accepted into the IPA as a Provisional Member;
3. **Syrian Publishers Association (SPA)** be accepted into the IPA as a Provisional Member.

In the case of AGEG and AMEL, the MC was unanimous in its recommendation. In the case of SPA, the MC was split, with 5 members supporting SPA's application and 2 rejecting it. The MC recommends that the IPA Secretariat monitor SPA's ongoing efforts to uphold and protect copyright and freedom to publish and to assist them wherever possible. The MC also recommends that the SPA be encouraged to further develop and integrate its newly formed Freedom to Publish Committee within its management structure and that this be done within the next couple of years; and that the IPA work with the SPA to further diminish the Syrian government's statutory control or influence over the SPA. Progress on all these fronts will be taken into account if and when the SPA applies for Full Membership in the future.

C. APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSITION FROM PROVISIONAL TO FULL MEMBERSHIP 2022

One IPA member, the Malaysian Book Publishers Association (MABOPA) applied to transition from Provisional to Full Membership this year. (Another member, the Russian Book Union, withdrew its application.) The MC consulted with the three other Permanent Committees and, in all cases, they came to a majority view that MABOPA should be granted Full Membership. (In the case of the CC and FtPC it was a unanimous recommendation; in the case of the EC it was almost unanimous, with just one abstention.)

The Membership Committee, taking into account all the recommendations from other Permanent Committees and its own research, agreed unanimously that:

Malaysian Book Publishers Association (MABOPA) be accepted as a Full Member;

Please note that IPA General Assembly Delegates from Full Members will be called upon to vote on these applications before the IPA General Assembly, using the Voting Pack to be sent out to them on 9 September. All approvals will take effect as of 1 January 2023.

This year, in relation to the above applicants, there were no major points of dissension among or within the Committees, for three of the four applicants, as is evident from the summary table above. We were impressed by the strength of commitment of the new applicants and noted that the Syrian PA had applied a number of times and had been rejected. Its persistence and the substantive changes it has made to its governance and management structures in response to previous IPA evaluations was appreciated and valued. We also welcome MABOPA's serious desire to become more deeply involved in the working of the IPA.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of the members of the Membership, Executive, Freedom to Publish and Copyright Committees, as well as the IPA Secretariat, José, James, Vera and Olivier, for all their hard work.

On behalf of Bodour Al Qasimi, Jessica Sängler and Kristenn Einarsson and the members of their respective committees and, of course, especially the members of the Membership Committee,

Kind regards,



Joachim Kaufmann
Chair — IPA Membership Committee