

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

REVISION OF THE RECOMMENDATION  
CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN  
ARCHITECTURE AND TOWN PLANNING (1956)

Preliminary report prepared in accordance with Article 10.1 of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

SUMMARY

In resolution 3.142 adopted at its nineteenth session, the General Conference considered it advisable to proceed with the revision of the Recommendation concerning International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning which it had adopted at its ninth session in 1956.

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, the Director-General has prepared the present preliminary report setting forth the position with regard to the problem to be regulated by means of the proposed revision and to the possible scope of that revision. A preliminary draft of the revised Recommendation is set out in the annex.

The preliminary report and the preliminary draft of the revised Recommendation are submitted to Member States for comments and observations. A final report containing a draft revised text will be prepared on the basis of these observations and comments and submitted direct to the General Conference at its twentieth session, in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid resolution.

Introduction

1. The Recommendation concerning International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning and the Standard Regulations annexed thereto were adopted by the General Conference at its ninth session (1956).
2. The Recommendation defines international norms relating to the organization of international competitions in architecture and town planning, the judging of international competitions and action following international competitions. "Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning" for the promoters of such competitions are annexed to the Recommendation.
3. The International Union of Architects (IUA), an international non-governmental organization which maintains consultative and associate relations (category A) with Unesco, co-operated closely with the Director-General with a view to preparation of the Recommendation and of the Regulations annexed thereto.
4. After a period of some twenty years, the international norms and principles defined in the Recommendation are still valid.
5. On the other hand, the International Union of Architects has realized in recent years that the Standard Regulations annexed to the Recommendation no longer meet present needs and that a revision of the text has become desirable.
6. The Executive Board subsequently decided, at its 99th session, following consideration of the preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects of the revision of the above Regulations, to include the question of the advisability of revising the said Regulations in the provisional agenda of the General Conference.
7. At its nineteenth session, the General Conference examined document 19 C/97 entitled "Possible revision of the Regulations annexed to the Recommendation concerning International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning adopted by the General Conference at its ninth session (1956)" (item 33 of the Agenda).
8. On the basis of the aforesaid document and in pursuance of Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, the General Conference, at its nineteenth session, adopted the following resolution:

"The General Conference,

Taking into account the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions, covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution,

Having examined the preliminary study by the Director-General (19 C/97) on the advisability of revising the Recommendation concerning International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning, adopted by the General Conference at its ninth session in 1956,

1. Considers it advisable to proceed with the revision of that Recommendation;
2. Authorizes the Director-General to prepare and submit to the General Conference at its twentieth session a draft revised Recommendation".

9. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, the Director-General has prepared the present preliminary report setting forth the position with regard to the problem to be regulated by means of the proposed revision and to the possible scope of that revision.
10. Member States are invited to make comments and observations on this report and on the preliminary draft of the revised Recommendation annexed to the report.
11. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the aforesaid Rules of Procedure, Member States should forward their comments and observations at least ten months before the opening of the twentieth session of the General Conference, i.e. not later than 27 December 1977.
12. In the light of the observations and comments submitted, the Director-General will prepare a final report containing a revised draft which will be submitted to the General Conference at its twentieth session.

#### Scope of the proposed revision

13. Since it was first established, the International Union of Architects has been actively concerned in the preparation of international competitions in architecture and town planning and over a period of close on 25 years has sponsored a large number of such competitions. The Regulations for competitions in architecture and town planning which the Union has drawn up for this purpose define the various categories of competition, the principles to be observed in their organization and the way in which the work of the jury is to proceed.
14. Apart from the basic distinction between competitions in architecture and those in town planning, the main subcategories of competition to be distinguished are open competitions and restricted competitions (by invitation), on the one hand, and "project" or "ideas" competitions on the other. Some competitions consist of two stages especially when the complex nature of the programme or the magnitude of the project necessitate such a measure.
15. Competitions of all categories for a great variety of purposes have taken place under the auspices of the Union. In some cases, the Union has also made proposals concerning the membership of the jury. If it is the promoter of the competition who decides on the membership of the jury, then one of its members must necessarily be a representative of the IUA.
16. The Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning annexed to the Recommendation adopted by the General Conference at its ninth session (1956) and which were prepared over 20 years ago, need updating in order to meet present needs in respect of international competitions in architecture and town planning more fully and to take account of the experience since gained.
17. In order to meet this need, a revised draft of the Standard Regulations, prepared by the Competitions Committee of the IUA, has been drawn up. The revised draft:
  - (a) broadens the range of international competitions in architecture and town planning by defining new categories of competition ("project", "ideas" and special competitions);

- (b) explicitly allows of participation by teams of technicians led by architects;
- (c) allows of participation by other professional persons working in association with architects and/or town planners;
- (d) gives additional information concerning the languages used for drawing up the programme of the competitions;
- (e) specifies that the regulations and complete programme for each competition and the notice of an international competition should be sent simultaneously to all IUA National Sections;
- (f) introduces the idea of the "professional adviser" appointed by the promoter to prepare the international competition programme;
- (g) specifies in greater detail how the conditions and programme for international competitions are to be established;
- (h) specifies the competition conditions which require written approval by the International Union of Architects for competitions organized under its auspices;
- (i) provides more detailed particulars concerning the amount and procedures for the award of the prizes, honoraria and mentions which should be foreseen by the promoters for the prize-winners;
- (j) specifies the membership of the jury and the responsibilities of its members.

18. It will be noted, on the other hand, that the text of paragraphs 1 to 14 of the preliminary draft of the revised recommendation set out in the annex to this report is identical with that of the corresponding paragraphs in the 1956 Recommendation.

FIRST DRAFT OF THE REVISED RECOMMENDATION  
CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN  
ARCHITECTURE AND TOWN PLANNING

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in its twentieth session at Paris from . . . . . to . . . . . 1978,

Recalling that it adopted, at its ninth session (1956), the Recommendation concerning International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning,

Noting that the international norms and principles defined in that Recommendation are still valid,

Considering, however, that the Standard Regulations annexed to that Recommendation require to be brought up to date in order to meet fully present needs in respect of international competitions in architecture and town planning more fully and to take account of the experience gained,

Having, at its nineteenth session, considered it advisable to proceed with the revision of that Recommendation,

Adopts, this .... day of ..... 1978, the present revised Recommendation.

The General Conference recommends that Member States should apply the following provisions by taking whatever legislative or other steps may be required to give effect, within their respective territories, to the principles and norms formulated in the present revised Recommendation.

The General Conference recommends that Member States should bring the present revised Recommendation to the knowledge of the authorities and organizations concerned with competitions in architecture and town planning, and of national associations of architects and town planners.

The General Conference recommends that Member States should report to it, on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, on the action they have taken to give effect to the present Recommendation.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. (a) For the purposes of the present Recommendation, the designation "international" shall apply to any competition in which the participation of architects or town planners of more than one country is invited.

(b) International competitions may be either open or restricted: (i) competitions for which any technicians of two or more countries may enter are termed open; (ii) competitions which are limited to certain technicians invited by the organizers are termed restricted.

(c) International competitions may consist of one or two parts.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2. The announcement of an international competition should include a definition of the type of competition and a clear statement of the purpose of the competition. It should indicate whether the competition is open or restricted and whether it is in one or two parts.
3. The programme of an international competition should be drawn up in consultation with the International Union of Architects.
4. The programme of an international competition should state clearly: the purpose of the competition, the precise nature of the problem, and the actual conditions to be fulfilled in the preparation of the plan.
5. The conditions and programme of an international competition should be identical for all competitors, irrespective of nationality.
6. The announcement of an open international competition should be made internationally and on an equitable basis.

## III. THE JUDGING OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

7. The jury should include a majority of qualified technicians.
8. The jury should include, among its members, persons of nationalities other than that of the country organizing the competition.

## IV. ACTION FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

9. The amount of prizes, awards and compensation specified in the programme of an international competition should be proportional to the size of the programme, its nature, and the work required of competitors.
10. The winner of an international competition should be given adequate safeguards with regard to his collaboration in the execution of the work. If the plan is not executed, provision should be made for compensation proportional to the importance of the plan.
11. Suitable steps should be taken to protect the copyright and rights of ownership of all competitors in the plans they submit for an international competition.
12. The results of an international competition should be made public and the plans submitted for the competition should be shown in a public exhibition.
13. Provision should be made for recourse to the good offices of the International Union of Architects for the settlement of any dispute which may arise in connection with an international competition.

## V. STANDARD REGULATIONS

14. Organizers of international competitions should be guided by the provisions of the Standard Regulations attached, as an annex, to the present Recommendation.

ANNEX

STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS  
IN ARCHITECTURE AND TOWN PLANNING

Introduction

The purpose of these Standard Regulations is to state the principles upon which international competitions are based and by which promoters should be guided in drawing up the conditions for a competition. They have been drawn up in the interests of both promoters and competitors.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The designation "international" shall apply to any competition in which participation is open to architects or teams of technicians led by architects of more than one country and members of other professions working in association with them. Competitions in which no restriction of any kind is placed are termed "open". These Regulations cover both open and sometimes special competitions where some form of restriction is imposed.

Article 2

International competitions may be classified into "Project" or "Ideas" competitions or a combination of the two, which are also defined in the "Instructions and recommendations to promoters".

Article 3

International competitions may be organized in one or two stages.

Article 4

The conditions, including the programme of requirements of an international competition shall be identical for all competitors.

Article 5

A copy of the complete competition conditions shall be filed with the International Union of Architects and sent free of charge at the same time to all IUA National Sections. The answers to competitors' questions shall also be sent to the IUA and to all IUA National Sections.

Article 6

Competition conditions which are not published in one of the official languages of the International Union of Architects (English, French, Spanish and Russian) shall be accompanied by a translation into at least one of these languages. Such translations shall be issued at the same time as the original language version. Competitors shall not be required to submit material in more than one IUA language.

Article 7

All competitors' designs shall be submitted anonymously.

Article 8

Notice of an international competition shall be issued by the promoter and/or the IUA Secretariat-General to all National Sections with a request for publication in technical journals or through other media at their disposal, as far as possible simultaneously, to enable those interested to apply for the competition conditions in due time. This announcement shall state where and how the competition documents may be obtained and that the conditions have received IUA approval (See Article 15).

PROFESSIONAL ADVISER

Article 9

The promoter will appoint a Professional Adviser, preferably an architect, but who could be a town planner in the case of a planning competition, to prepare the conditions and supervise the conduct of the competition.

DRAWING UP THE CONDITIONS

Article 10

The conditions for international competitions, whether single or two stage, open or restricted, shall state clearly:

- (a) the purpose of the competition and the intentions of the promoter;
- (b) the nature of the problem to be solved;
- (c) all the practical requirements to be met by competitors.

Article 11

A clear indication shall be made between the mandatory requirements of the conditions and those which permit the competitor freedom of interpretation, which should be as wide as possible. All competition entries shall be submitted in a manner to be prescribed in the conditions.

Article 12

The information supplied to competitors (social, economic, technical, geographical and topographical) must be specific and not open to misinterpretation. Supplementary information and instructions approved by the jury may be issued by the promoter to all competitors selected to proceed to the second stage of a two-stage competition.

Article 13

The competition conditions shall state the number, nature, scale and dimensions of the documents, plans or models required and the terms of acceptance of such documents or models. Where an estimate of cost is required, this must be presented in standard form as set out in the conditions.



Article 14

As a general rule, the promoter of an international competition shall use the metric scale. Where this is not done the metric equivalent shall be annexed to the conditions.

IUA APPROVAL

Article 15

IUA written approval of the draft competition conditions, including the timetable, registration fee and membership of the jury shall have been received in writing by the promoter before any announcement is made by the promoter that a competition has received IUA sponsorship.

REGISTRATION OF COMPETITORS

Article 16

As soon as they have received details of the competition, competitors shall register with the promoter. Registration implies acceptance of the competition conditions.

Article 17

The promoter shall issue to competitors all the necessary documentation for preparing their designs. Where a deposit is required for the competition conditions, unless otherwise stated this deposit shall be returned to competitors who submit a bona fide design.

Article 18

The names of those competitors selected to proceed to the second stage of a two-stage competition will only be made public at the discretion of the promoter and the jury in which case they will be published in alphabetical order.

PRIZES, HONORARIA AND MENTIONS

Article 19

The competition conditions must state the amount and number of prizes. The prizes awarded must be related to the size of the project, the amount of work involved and the expense incurred by competitors.

Article 20

Town-planning competitions are, by their nature, ideas competitions, since the work is generally carried out by official bodies, frequently on a long-term basis. It is therefore particularly important for the promoter to allot adequate prize money to recompense competitors for their work. It may even be the sole remuneration received by the first prize-winner.

Article 21

The promoter undertakes to accept the decisions and the award of the jury and to pay the prizes allotted within one month of the announcement of the competition results.

Article 22

Each participant in a competition by invitation shall receive an honorarium in addition to the prizes awarded.

Article 23

In two-stage competitions, a reasonable honorarium shall be paid to each of the competitors selected to take part in the second stage. This sum, which is intended to reimburse them for the additional work carried out in the second stage, shall be stated in the competition conditions and shall be in addition to the prizes awarded.

Article 24

The competition conditions shall state the use to which the promoter will put the winning scheme. Plans may not be put to any other use or altered in any way except by agreement with the author.

Article 25

In project competitions the award of first prize to a design places the promoter under the obligation to entrust the author of the design with the commission for the project. If the winner is unable to satisfy the jury of his ability to carry out the work, the jury may require him to collaborate with another architect of his choice approved by the jury and the promoter.

Article 26

In project competitions provision shall be made in the competition conditions for the first prize-winner to receive compensation of a further sum equal to the amount of the first prize if no contract has been signed within twelve months of the announcement of the jury's award. In so compensating the first prize-winner the promoter does not acquire the right to carry out the project except with the collaboration of its author.

Article 27

In ideas competitions the promoter, if he intends to make use of all or part of the winning scheme, will, wherever possible, consider some form of collaboration with its author. The terms of collaboration must be acceptable to the winner.

INSURANCE

Article 28

The promoter will insure competitors' designs from the time when he assumes responsibility for them and for the duration of his responsibility. The amount of such insurance will be stated in the competition conditions.

COPYRIGHT AND RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP

Article 29

The author of any design shall retain the copyright of his work; no alterations may be made without his formal consent.

Article 30

The design awarded first prize can only be used by the promoter upon his commissioning the author to carry out the project. No other design, whether it has been awarded a prize or not, may be used wholly or in part by the promoter except by agreement with the author.

Article 31

As a general rule, the promoter's right of ownership on a design covers one execution only. However, the competition conditions may provide for repetitive work and specify the terms thereof.

Article 32

In all cases, unless otherwise stated in the conditions, the author of any design shall retain the right of reproduction.

THE JURY

Article 33

The jury shall be set up before the opening of the competition. Their names and those of the reserve members of the jury shall be stated in the competition conditions.

Article 34

As a general rule the members of the jury are appointed by the promoter after approval by the IUA. The IUA will assist promoters in the selection of jury members

Article 35

The jury shall be composed of the smallest reasonable number of persons of different nationalities, and in any event should be an odd number and should not exceed seven. The majority of them shall be architects.

Article 36

It is required that one member of the jury should be appointed by the IUA and this should be stated in the competition conditions.

Article 37

There should not be more than two representatives of the promoting body included in the jury.

Article 38

It is essential that all members of the jury be present at all meetings of the jury.

Article 39

Each member of the jury shall see and approve the competition conditions before they are made available to competitors.

Article 40

No member of the jury for a competition shall take part, either directly or indirectly, in that competition, nor be entrusted either directly or indirectly with a commission connected with the carrying out of the object of the competition.

Article 41

No member of the promoting body nor any associate or employee nor any person who has been concerned with the preparation or organization of the competition shall be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

Article 42

The decisions of the jury shall be taken by a majority vote, with a separate vote on each design submitted. In the event of the vote being split, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. The list of awards including the jury's report to the promoter shall be signed by all members of the jury before they disperse and one copy of this document sent to the Union.

Article 43

In two-stage competitions, the same jury should judge both stages of the competition. In no case may a competition which has received IUA approval as a single-stage competition proceed to a second stage except with IUA approval of the conditions and with appropriate remuneration to the competitors involved over and above the premiums provided for in the original competition. In the event of such a secondary competition taking place, the jury appointed in the original competition must be reappointed.

Article 44

Any drawings, photographs, models or other documents not required by the competition conditions shall be excluded by the jury before examining a competitor's entry.

Article 45

The jury may disqualify any design which does not conform to any of the conditions, instructions or requirements of the competition.

Article 46

The jury must make an award. The award shall be final and shall be made public.

Article 47

The fees and travel and subsistence expenses of jury members shall be paid by the promoter.

EXHIBITION OF ENTRIES

Article 48

All designs, including those disqualified by the jury, shall be exhibited for at least two weeks together with a copy of the signed report of the jury. The exhibition shall be open to the public free of charge.

Article 49

The promoter shall notify registered competitors in all countries in good time of the date and place of the public exhibition of designs. He shall similarly inform the IUA and all National Sections. Photographs of the award-winning designs shall be sent to the IUA with a view to possible publication.

Article 50

In two-stage competitions, designs submitted in the first stage shall be kept secret until the final results are announced.

RETURN OF DESIGNS

Article 51

All drawings and plans, other than those which have received an award and are retained by the promoter, will be destroyed at the end of the public exhibition, unless provision is made to the contrary in the competition conditions. Where models are required, these will be returned to their author at the expense of the promoter within one month of the close of the public exhibition.