

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK.

Signed at the  
MEETING OF THE I\*EARN MANAGEMENT TEAM  
Puerto Madryn, Argentina, July 12, 1994

Preamble	
Chapter I:	Goals and Principles
Chapter II:	Membership
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PREAMBLE

The vision and purpose of the International Education and Resource Network is to enable young people to undertake projects designed to make a meaningful contribution to the health and welfare of the planet and its people.

CHAPTER I

GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

Article I

The Goals of the International Education and Resource Network (I\*EARN or the Organization) are:

1. To develop friendly relations among youth of all nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
2. To encourage youth from all countries to learn and work co-operatively and collaboratively using telecommunications and other technology, to strengthen universal peace, to identify and take active part in resolving global problems facing the world;
3. To promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex,

language, culture, or religion;

4. To facilitate identification and sharing the different but complementary experiences of educational, academic and other national organizations with enduring educational infrastructures, and traditions throughout the world;

5. To share high-quality educational and other resources available in individual Member-centers;

6. To provide a global infrastructure for a conceptual and action-based educational network that is open to all;

7. To share/transfer telecommunications technology, teaching methods and other resources with youth organizations, schools or individuals wishing to achieve the I\*EARN purpose and goals;

8. To assist in establishing training and support programs in each global Center;

9. To expand the network of financially and operationally sustainable I\*EARN Centers throughout the globe;

10. To work with umbrella organizations, academic bodies, universities, non-government organizations, and governments to establish a global community of concerned organizations and citizens with the express purpose of supporting the youth of the world in developing and implementing educational and humanitarian projects, especially projects of change and healing for the health and welfare of the planet;

11. To develop and maintain high-quality educational innovation;

12. To raise funds through local and global funding agreements to support these programs and goals.

## Article 2

The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Goals stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the global solidarity and equality of all its Members.

2. In order to ensure to all Members the rights and benefits resulting from Membership, each Member shall fulfill in good faith the

obligations stated in the present Constitution.

3. All Members shall settle any disputes in the spirit of mutual respect in such a manner that the basic purpose and goals of I\*EARN are not endangered.

4. In accordance with the goals stated in Article 1, no infrastructure or facilities of the International Education and Resource Network can be used for hate or bias or to disseminate or encourage racial, national, cultural, or religious prejudice.

5. Nothing contained in the Constitution shall authorize the International Education and Resource Network to intervene in matters which are essentially within domestic jurisdiction or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the Constitution.

## CHAPTER II

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Article 3

The founding Members of the International Education and Resource Network are the Copen Family Fund and the I\*EARN Centers which existed at the time of the I\*EARN Meeting at Puerto Madryn, Argentina in July 1994 and signed this Constitution.

#### Article 4

1. An I\*EARN Center is a consortium of sites with a management infrastructure to support training, development, and research; which shares the vision and purpose, and supports goals and principles of the Organization as stated in the Preamble and the Constitution, and meets other requirements that will be instituted by a decision of the I\*EARN Assembly.

2. New applicants for Center Membership should conform to Article 4.1, and, in the judgment of the Organization be able and willing to carry out these obligations. An admission to Center Membership will be effected by a decision of the I\*EARN Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council.

3. If an existing I\*EARN center has concerns that an applicant for center Membership is unable to execute the responsibilities as stated in the Constitution or may endanger its essential interests, a review

process will be automatically implemented which will require the institution of a review panel consisting of the Executive Council and the conflicting parties. The decision of the review panel to accept the applicant must be unanimous.

4. The procedure of Article 4.1 will also apply in the case of adoption of new sites into existing centers.

#### Article 5

A Member of the International Education and Resource Network which has violated the Principles contained in the present Constitution may be expelled from the Organization by the I\*EARN Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council.

### CHAPTER III

#### ORGANS

#### Article 6

1. The principal organs of the International Education and Resource Network are the I\*EARN Assembly and the Executive Council.

2. Such subsidiary organs as may be found necessary may be established in accordance with the Constitution.

### CHAPTER IV

#### THE I\*EARN ASSEMBLY

#### Composition

#### Article 7

The I\*EARN Assembly shall consist of all the Member-Centers of the International Education and Resource Network.

#### FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

#### Article 8

The I\*EARN Assembly may discuss any question or matter within the scope of the Constitution or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Constitution, and may make recommendations to the Members of the International Education and

Resource Network or to the Executive Council or to both on any such question or matter.

#### Article 9

1. The I\*EARN Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation of Members, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Executive Council or to both.
2. The I\*EARN Assembly may call the attention of the Executive Council to situations which are likely to endanger mutual trust and cooperation.
3. The powers of the I\*EARN Assembly set forth in this Article shall not limit the general scope of Article 8.

#### Article 10

The decisions of the I\*EARN Assembly are taken either during face-to-face meetings or on-line. On-line discussions can be initiated by any Member or by the Executive Council.

#### Article 11

1. The I\*EARN Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Executive Council;
2. The I\*EARN Assembly shall receive and consider reports from other organs of the International Education and Resource Network.

#### Article 12

The Global Secretariat of the International Education and Resource Network will be set-up in the United State as a 501-c-3 (non-profit) corporation for which purpose the Executive Council shall act as the Board of Directors.

#### Article 13

1. The I\*EARN Assembly shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization proposed by the Executive Council.
2. The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the I\*EARN Assembly.

#### VOTING

## Article 14

1. Each Member of the I\*EARN Assembly shall have one vote.
2. The I\*EARN Assembly shall convene annually.
3. A face-to-face meeting of the I\*EARN Assembly requires a quorum of two-thirds of all Members. Any Member not present but willing to cast its vote on-line can do so.
4. Any decision changing or amending the Constitution shall be made at the annual I\*EARN Assembly meeting. Such decisions will require a two-thirds majority of all Members. If for reasons beyond the control of the Organization no annual meeting is held within 18 months of the last meeting, an on-line decision-making process will be invoked. Such decisions will require a two-thirds majority of all Members. If the amendment suggested affects Articles 4.3, 4.4, and/or 14.4, a decision in order to take effect must be a unanimous one by all Members.
5. Decisions of the I\*EARN Assembly on other important questions shall be made either in face-to-face meetings or on-line by a two-thirds majority of all Members. These questions shall include the election of the Executive Council, the admission of new Members to the International Education and Resource Network, the suspension of the rights and privileges of Membership, the expulsion of Members, and budgetary questions.
6. Decisions on other questions, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a majority of the Members.

## Article 15

A Member of the Organization owing more than one year's dues may be subject to the suspension of rights and privileges exercised under the Constitution.

## PROCEDURE

## Article 16

The I\*EARN Assembly shall meet in such special sessions as circumstances may require. Special sessions shall be convoked at the request of the Executive Council or of a majority of the Members. An on-line I\*EARN Assembly will function continuously.

## Article 17

The I\*EARN Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure. It shall elect its President for each meeting.

## Article 18

The I\*EARN Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

## CHAPTER V

### THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### Composition

## Article 19

1. The Executive Council shall consist of five persons. At least four of them will represent different Members of the International Education and Resource Network with due regard being specially paid to the global solidarity and equity.
2. The Members of the Executive Council shall be elected for a term of two years. Two or three Members will be elected each year. No one can be elected to the Executive Council for more than two consecutive terms.

### FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

## Article 20

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the International Education and Resource Network its Members confer on the Executive Council primary responsibility for the day-to-day decisions concerning the international operations of the Organization.
2. In discharging these duties the Executive Council shall act in accordance with the Preamble and Constitution of the International Education and Resource Network and whatever other decisions are made under the present Constitution by the I\*EARN Assembly.
3. The Executive Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the I\*EARN Assembly for its consideration.

## Article 21

The Members of the International Education and Resource Networks agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Executive Council in accordance with the present Constitution.

## VOTING

### Article 22

1. Each Member of the Executive Council shall have one vote.
2. Decisions of the Executive Council shall be made by an affirmative vote of three Members.

## PROCEDURE

### Article 23

1. The Executive Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously.
2. The on-line discussions of the Executive Council will be open as read-only to all Members of the Organization with the exception of those matters as will be explicitly approved by the I\*EARN Assembly.

### Article 24

The Executive Council may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

### Article 25

The Executive Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Officers and hiring staff, including the I\*EARN Director.

### Article 26

Any Member of the International Education and Resource Network which is not a Member of the Executive Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Executive Council whenever the Member considers that its interests are specially affected.

### Article 27

A non-Member of the International Education and Resource Network, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Executive Council, shall be invited to participate, without vote, in the discussion relating to the dispute. The Executive Council shall lay down such conditions as it deems just for the participation of a non-Member of the International Education and Resource Network.

DONE AT THE CITY OF PUERTO MADRYN, ARGENTINA  
THE TWELFTH DAY OF JULY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY  
FOUR.

For the Copen Family Fund  
Peter Copen

Ed Gragert

For the Argentina I\*EARN Center  
Daniel Reyes

For the Australia I\*EARN Center  
William A.J.Coppinger

For the Boston I\*EARN Center / ELNA Global Age Project  
Dell Salza

For China National Center of I\*EARN  
Fu Li

For the Interregional I\*EARN Center in Moscow  
Victor Minachin

For the I\*EARN Center ORT Israel  
Gideon Goldstein

For the Mid-Continent Center  
Ken Evans

Daryl Bragg

For the Pacific Northwest Center  
John Anderson

For the Southwestern Center  
Betsy Frederick

For the Spain I\*EARN Center

Narcis Vives

For the Netherlands I\*EARN Center  
Peter Baak

For the Canada I\*EARN Center  
Earl Choldin

For the Boces New York Center  
Chris Morton