

Sustainability and Inclusion Guidelines for IACL Events

The International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL), as per its Statute, through its efforts to coordinate the activities of those concerned with constitutional law around the world, seeks to work for the realisation of the aims of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In line with these overarching goals of the IACL Statute, institutions organising or hosting any IACL event should also adhere to these aims through promoting peace, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and constitutionalism. The IACL hereby adopts these Guidelines to elaborate expectations for institutions organising or hosting IACL events.

Objectives

1. The Guidelines seek to:
 - 1.1 Assist institutions organising or hosting IACL events to operate in line with the objectives of the IACL set out in the Statute, including promoting peace, respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy and constitutionalism; and
 - 1.2 Encourage institutions organising or hosting IACL events to practice environmental sustainability in line with the recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Scope

2. The Guidelines apply to:
 - 2.1 all IACL events, including the World Congress, Roundtables, Conferences and Junior Scholar Forums; and
 - 2.2 the whole lifecycle of events including proposal development, venue, programme, materials, advertising, travel, accommodation, local transport, audio-visual, catering and media outreach.
3. All institutions organising or hosting IACL events should strive to take reasonable steps to encourage their contractors and partners supplying goods, services or resources to follow the Guidelines.

Principles

4. An institution organising or hosting IACL events is expected to:
 - 4.1 respect human rights and the environment;
 - 4.2 protect freedom of speech and expression, including academic freedom, in accordance with international human rights law;
 - 4.3 respect the principle of non-discrimination and ensure diversity including in terms of gender, ability, race, ethnicity, region and language; and
 - 4.4 respect the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022.
5. While trying to uphold these principles, an institution may consider its financial circumstances as well as local conditions, culture and customs.

Implementation

6. An institution proposing to organise or host an IACL event is encouraged to explain briefly in its proposal how it plans to take the Guidelines into account.
7. An institution organising or hosting IACL events is invited to establish appropriate policies, processes, and mechanisms—including any recommended by the IACL Executive Committee—to support the implementation of the Guidelines.
8. After completion of an IACL event, the institution organising or hosting the event is invited to submit a brief report to the IACL Executive Committee outlining the steps it took to implement the Guidelines and any challenges it experienced so as to facilitate sharing of experiences and helping build good practices for future organisers.

Annexure of good practices*

- ✓ Take proactive steps to ensure diversity in developing an event programme.
- ✓ Find an accessible venue where practicable.
- ✓ Have a process in place to deal with any discrimination or harassment complaint.
- ✓ Reduce, reuse and recycle plastic and paper as much as feasible to reduce carbon footprints.
- ✓ Take suitable measures to conserve electricity and water usage.
- ✓ Use sustainable materials for conference bags or souvenirs, if possible.
- ✓ Source food locally as much as feasible.

Adopted unanimously at the Executive Committee meeting of the International Association of Constitutional Law in Uppsala, Sweden on 5 May 2026.