

ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES

April 2024

(Containing Board Decisions Through January 2024)

[Extract]

[Pages 133-138]

ARTICLE 21. MULTIDISTRICT ACTIVITIES

21.010. Guidelines for Multidistrict Activities, Projects and Organizations

21.020. Intercountry Committees



21.020. Intercountry Committees

Intercountry committees promote relationships between two or more international districts or two or more countries to increase fellowship and intercultural understanding among the people of various nations, foster stronger ties between members, clubs, and districts from different countries, and establish networks across borders, continents, and oceans.

While only districts may form and join intercountry committees, individual Rotarians, their partners, Rotaractors, and Rotary and Rotaract clubs may participate in their activities. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.1. Activities of Intercountry Committees

Recommended activities for Intercountry Committee participants include, but are not limited to: visiting each other's countries and homes, strengthening friendships and projects so formed by encouraging clubs and districts to connect with clubs and districts in other countries, and contributing to world peace.

Intercountry Committees may also:

- exchange best practices for sponsoring new clubs
- develop a sister or twin club relationship between clubs in participating countries
- conduct Friendship Exchanges between the two countries
- initiate or carry out International Service projects
- initiate or carry out Vocational Service projects

(*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.2. Establishing an Intercountry Committee

Intercountry Committees can be national or sub-national relationships between two countries. National intercountry committees require the consensus of all districts in a country. Sub-national intercountry committees require the consensus of all districts participating in the relationship. An established Intercountry Committee shall inform the Executive Council of its formation.

1. Establishing a national Intercountry Committee

To form an Intercountry Committee between two or more countries, approval from all of the countries' district governors must be obtained. District governors from a given country who wish to delegate decision-making authority for establishing new national Intercountry Committees may do so with unanimous consent of all district governors in the country.

Interested Rotarians in each country should form a planning committee to establish an Intercountry Committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include obtaining approval to organize an Intercountry Committee from each district's governor, electing an Intercountry Committee chair to lead the relationship, identifying potential projects, and activities for the ICC participants to undertake, and organizing a planning meeting. The name of an intercountry committee shall be taken from the names of the participating countries. (Refer to the Brand Center for guidance on using a geographic identifier as part of the Intercountry Committee's name or branding.) Should a district decide to leave the relationship, the relationship shall evolve into a subnational Intercountry Committee.

2. Establishing a subnational Intercountry Committee

To form a subnational Intercountry Committee between two or more districts, approval from all of the district governors must be obtained.

Interested Rotarians in each district should form a planning committee to establish a district-level Intercountry Committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include obtaining approval to organize a subnational Intercountry Committee from each participating district governor, electing an Intercountry Committee chair to lead the relationship, inviting club presidents from each district to participate, identifying potential projects and activities for ICC participants to undertake, and organizing a planning meeting. The name of a subnational Intercountry Committee shall be taken from the names of the participating districts. Should a district decide to leave the relationship, the name of the ICC shall be updated to reflect the remaining participants.

(June 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248;
Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; June 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

21.020.3. Governance

An Intercountry Committee is led by an Intercountry Committee chair, elected from participating districts for a three-year term. Intercountry Committees must abide by the

rules governing organizations in their country and shall have officers including a chair, secretary, and treasurer. The chair should serve for three years while the other leaders should rotate on an annual basis. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.4. Relationships with Districts

Intercountry Committees are encouraged to collaborate with the district governors of participating districts as well as their district international service committees, if one is appointed.

Intercountry committee chairs may contact district governors, district governors-elect, and district international service committee chairs in their country regarding the formation of a new ICC or to annually invite participation in an existing ICC relationship. (*September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

21.020.5. ICC Executive Council

The ICC Executive Council is a resource for districts and countries wishing to form a new Intercountry Committee. The Executive Council collects and shares best practices for forming Intercountry Committees and subsequent projects and activities. The Executive Council maintains a list of Intercountry Committee Chairs and active Intercountry Committees, made available through its website.

The Executive Council is led by a president, secretary and treasurer, elected by reported Intercountry Committee chairs. The president of the executive council serves a three year term, acts as the liaison between intercountry committees and Rotary International and submits an annual report to RI in July each year. The annual report shall include contact information for Intercountry Committee chairs, a list of Intercountry Committee relationships, and a summary of major projects and activities. Failure to submit an annual report by 1 August will result in termination of the president's term and will require the Executive Council members to elect a new president. The Executive Council may collect modest optional fees from established ICCs to cover website expenses. The Executive Council may not create additional governance or leadership positions for individual Intercountry Committees, nor does it have authority to approve or decline the formation of new ICCs. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.6. Relationship with Rotary International

Establishing an Intercountry Committee in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. An Intercountry Committee may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. An Intercountry Committee is not an agency of RI.

Intercountry Committees must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Intercountry Committees may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.7. Finances

Intercountry Committees shall function without financial support from Rotary International. Modest optional fees may be collected from participating districts to cover operating costs of an Intercountry Committee. The fees may be used for administrative purposes or to support humanitarian projects and cannot be used to offset travel or other expenses incurred by an individual as a result of participating in activities organized by an Intercountry Committee or the Executive Council. If an Intercountry Committee or the Executive Council elects to collect fees, the Intercountry Committee's leadership or Executive Council's leadership shall prepare a budget of estimated income and estimated expenditures for the year at the beginning of each fiscal year. All bills shall be paid by the treasurer, or other authorized officer, only after approval by two other officers. An annual financial review by a qualified person shall be made of all the Intercountry Committee's and Executive Council's financial transactions and be shared with all participating districts. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281;
Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

