



Preamble. Regular membership in the IMU comes in five categories, denoted Group I–V, with membership dues calculated on the basis of the current “unit contribution”, which is decided by the IMU General Assembly. As set out in the IMU Statutes, the membership dues for the five categories scale as follows: Group I dues are equal to one unit contribution, Group II dues are twice the unit contribution, while for Groups III, IV, and V, the dues are four, eight, and twelve times the unit contribution, respectively. Currently [1 Aug 2022] the unit contribution is EUR 1,430. This will increase to EUR 1,460 for the 2023–2026 term.

The situation of arrears on membership dues is described in the IMU Statutes (Article 32):

Any Adhering Organization which is in arrears with its contributions for two years shall be warned and shall be deprived of its voting rights. Any Adhering Organization which is in arrears for four years shall cease to be an adherent of the Union. In any case, before taking action, the Executive Committee shall submit the question to the Members of the Union by postal ballot or at a meeting of the General Assembly who under special circumstances may waive these provisions by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes assigned to the Members.

Fortunately, only one country has had its membership terminated to date under the current Statutes, namely the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, there have been many other instances when countries have come close to losing their IMU membership due to arrears.

The Statutes do not contain any provision regarding suspension of membership, or temporary relief of dues. It is however the experience of the IMU that some countries encounter temporary problems paying their dues for reasons outside their control. The reasons can be varied, e.g., deterioration of the financial situation in a country, hyperinflation, collapse of government, various natural catastrophes, and civil unrest or military conflict. In addition, some countries are subject to international sanctions that prohibit international money transfers.

The above issue was discussed at the 19th General Assembly, which then passed the following resolution (Resolution 17):

The IMU will set up a “reserve fund” to help Adhering Organizations whose dues are in arrears, due to temporary extreme, adverse circumstances. The “reserve fund” will be funded by earmarked contributions. The requests for help will be considered by the IMU Executive Committee, who will decide on them on a case-by-case basis. The IMU Executive Committee will report to the next IMU General Assembly on the working of this program.

Note that there is nothing in the IMU Statutes that prevents a country or benefactor from covering the membership dues of another country. Indeed this has happened in the past. For donations of this type there are no restrictions. This is the simplest way to help a country in a dire situation.

The following are the regulations for the IMU Reserve Fund.

Regulations for the IMU Reserve Fund

The functioning of the IMU as a Union – including the diverse spectrum of all its activities – depends on its members paying their annual dues. The purpose of the IMU Reserve Fund is to assist Adhering Organizations whose dues are in arrears due to temporary extreme, adverse circumstances.

The IMU accepts contributions to the Reserve Fund from countries, organizations, and individuals. Donations cannot be assigned to individual countries and will be disbursed according to the regulations given below. The IMU reserves the right to deny any donation, see Article 27.

At the time of requesting support, the Adhering Organization has to have paid its membership dues for at least two years. Support from the Reserve Fund can only be applied to current or future membership dues. If the Adhering Organization is already in arrears for previous years, the outstanding dues cannot be covered by the Reserve Fund and will have to be paid by other means.

In order to receive support from the IMU Reserve Fund, an Adhering Organization must apply to the IMU Executive Committee in writing. The application has to specify:

- a. the nature of the extreme, adverse circumstances;
- b. the temporary nature;
- c. the attempts that have been made to secure funding from other sources.

Circumstances can include, but are not restricted to, breakdown of financial infrastructure, natural catastrophes, civil unrest or military conflict. The circumstances have to be temporary, and the application has to describe the temporary nature of the situation.

The IMU Executive Committee decides the support based on the application, and the severity and the temporary nature of the situation. Their decision is final. The support is given on an annual basis only, but can be renewed by submitting a further written application. The support is however limited to a maximum of four consecutive years. Partial support is also possible, but again not beyond a maximum of four consecutive years. If another round of support is required, Adhering Organizations are only eligible to apply for this after a period of at least two years where regular membership dues have been paid.

The IMU Executive Committee will abide by the IMU guidelines regarding Conflicts of Interest in this matter.

An Adhering Organization retains its rights at the time of application while being supported by the IMU Reserve Fund.

The IMU Executive Committee will report to the IMU General Assembly on the actions taken, in particular, the donations received and the recipients of the support.