

FIT REGIONAL CENTRE LATIN AMERICA

BYLAWS

As approved by FIT Council on January 12, 2007.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 1. The "REGIONAL CENTRE LATIN AMERICA" (CRAL) is a non-profit Latin American organization that is part of the *Federation Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT)*, comprised of Latin American associations of translators and interpreters.

Section 2. The CRAL was organized in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the third day of the month of May of the year 2003 and for a perpetual period.

CRAL headquarters shall be host in rotation in the acting President's city of residence.

The geographical area of CRAL includes the Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Section 3. Its objectives and purposes are only those of professional, cultural, and scientific nature, that is, to meet specific needs of the professionals in a given geographical area, and no political, religious or business issues shall be concerned.

Section 4. CRAL main objectives are:

1. To foster ongoing training and education in the countries of the Region, according to their domestic circumstances and the range of needs that may result from their regional and national issues.
2. To promote the creation of new professional associations wherever there is no such association, focusing mainly on the countries reluctant to bring into life this kind of entities.
3. Based on the establishment of associations hereinabove mentioned in item 2, to foster the foundation of Professional Councils ("*Colegios Profesionales*") or Associations that, by means of the control of a professional roster, may have a wide representation in the various sectors of the political and social life of any country.
4. To strengthen existing associations and institutions, supporting them based on counseling and representation, as well as training and professional interchange activities.
5. To promote the inclusion of associations into the *Federation Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT)*, both as full members and associates,
6. To encourage and promote institutional relationships among professional institutions in the area.
7. To develop cooperative policies for the protection of translators and interpreters in Latin American countries.
8. To analyze the situation related to copyright within Latin America and to promote policies for the exercise and protection of said copyright.
9. To build a relationship between the Regional Centre and

training entities that may pave the way for creating a deeper consciousness of the magnitude of this profession even before ending the course of studies.

Section 5. CRAL shall provide international support to professional translators in every activity related to translation, interpretation, interlingual and intercultural communication.

Section 6. Generally, CRAL shall play a part in the development of translation theory and practice in its various forms and areas, promoting these interests in all relevant fields and shall be a vehicle for cultural dissemination.

II. MEMBERS

Section 7. CRAL shall have the following type of members: full members, associate and observers.

Section 8. Full members are FIT members' professional translators and interpreters associations, or those that in spite of not being members have a structure and objectives well-matched to those of FIT. They shall have a right to vote.

Section 9. Associate members are universities and training institutions offering translation and interpretation careers. They shall have a right to vote.

Section 10. Observers are the remaining institutions involved in the translation and interpretation field but within the scope of other disciplines related to languages in general. They shall have a voice but shall not have a right to vote.

Section 11. The application for admission shall be forwarded to the Steering Committee, which upon careful analysis of the general aspects of the application shall report its decision to the association involved.

III. GOVERNING BODIES

Section 12. The major authority of CRAL is the General Meeting, comprised of the representatives from every associate and full member.

Section 13. The General Meeting shall elect the Steering Committee that will manage the activities of CRAL. Every member association has a right to one vote. Decisions shall be adopted by simple majority of votes.

Section 14. The Steering Committee shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, and a Treasurer. Only the representatives of associations that are FIT members can be appointed to the Steering Committee.

Section 15. Officers of the Steering Committee shall act on a personal basis and shall remain in office for three years, which will match the tenure of the Executive Council post holders.

Section 16. The tenure of any member of the Steering Committee shall finish before the term stated in Section 15 in the following

cases:

- a) resignation
- b) when the post holder loses his/her capacity as a member of the association he/she represents
- c) when the association which he/she represents no longer remains a member of CRAL or FIT.

Section 17. Should any of the above mentioned cases arise, the Steering Committee shall appoint a person to fill the vacant for the current term of office until the next General Meeting is held.

IV. FINANCIAL ISSUES

Section 18. CRAL shall cover overhead expenses with the proceeds from the membership fees. The Steering Committee shall make a proposal about the fee to be charged, which must be approved by the General Meeting. For such purpose, three types of fees shall be fixed according the type of membership.

Section 19. CRAL may apply for external financing so as to comply with the activities proposed. Likewise, it may raise operating funds by means of educational and training activities.

V. PROCEDURES

Section 20. The President shall act as the legal representative of CRAL; in case of absence, this capacity shall be exercised by any of the acting Vice-Presidents, in accordance with the decision of the Steering Committee. The Secretary shall countersign every written note to be posted, signed by the President or any of the Vice-Presidents, in case of absence of the President. The Treasurer will countersign the vouchers related to money income and payments signed by the President or by any of the Vice-Presidents, in case of absence of the President.

Section 21. The Internal Rules, established pursuant to these bylaws, shall specify the way of operating for CRAL and its bodies, as well as the rights and obligations of its members, which must be approved by the General Meeting by simple majority.

Section 22. These Bylaws shall be put forward for approval of a two-thirds majority of the General Meeting members, and any further amendment shall be approved also by a two-thirds majority.