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**Article 21. Multidistrict Activities****21.010.** Guidelines for Multidistrict Activities, Projects and Organizations**21.020.** Intercountry Committees**21.010. Guidelines for Multidistrict Activities, Projects and Organizations**

Service activities, projects and organizations involving clubs in two or more districts are encouraged, subject to the following:

A) Multidistrict activities, projects and organizations:

1) shall be, in nature and scope, within the capability of the clubs and Rotarians in the districts to be undertaken successfully without interfering with or detracting from the scope and effectiveness of club activities in furthering the program of Rotary at the club level

2) shall not be undertaken initially unless each governor concerned has agreed to such a joint activity and then, only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in each district. Any participating district that seeks to terminate its participation in a multidistrict activity, project or organization must secure the approval of two-thirds of the clubs in the district to withdraw.

3) shall be under the direct supervision of the governors concerned; the custody of all funds contributed or collected for such activities, projects or organizations shall be the responsibility of the governors concerned, though a committee of Rotarians from within the districts involved may be appointed to assist in administering any such activity, project or organization and related funds. The governors involved in any multidistrict activity, project or organization shall also be responsible for ensuring that an annual financial review by a qualified person or an audited financial statement of multidistrict finances is prepared for the activity, project or organization and distributed to the participating clubs. (Please see section 34.040.7., point 9 for a further definition of “full control of a Rotary Entity.”)

4) shall involve participation by Rotary clubs and/or individual Rotarians on a voluntary basis, clearly presented as such; the cost of participation by a club or individual Rotarian, if any, should be kept to a minimum, and not implicitly or directly be made an obligation in the form of a per capita assessment or otherwise

5) shall adhere to all applicable RI policies, including RI’s circularization policy and policies for use of the Rotary Marks.

6) in order to clarify that the activity, project or organization is not one of RI or TRF, the promotional materials, printed and electronic, and especially on any donation page, shall state that the activity, project or organization is one of a local nature.

B) This policy does not include projects involving cooperation between districts partnering for an international service project.

C) Multidistrict PETS organizations are exempt from these Multidistrict Guidelines. Rather, they are to be governed by the Multidistrict PETS Guidelines.

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D) With the exception of a multidistrict PETS, which shall be under the direct authority and control of the governors-elect in cooperation with governors, the ultimate responsibility for multidistrict events, activities, projects and organizations lies with the governors of the districts involved.

E) Local approval of a multidistrict activity, project or organization in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI. A multidistrict organization may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A multidistrict organization is not an agency of RI. Multidistrict organizations must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise.

F) In instances where multidistrict activities, projects and organizations are incorporated, the members of the corporation should be the governors of the districts involved or their appointees. The board of directors of any such incorporated activity, project or organization should be elected by the members of the corporation. Corporate structures not in harmony with these provisions will generally be considered as not in conformance with RI policy regarding supervision of multidistrict activities, projects and organizations by the governors. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30*)

Source: May 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 308; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118; July 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 16; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80. See also May-June 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 356; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30)

### **Cross References**

*11.010.2. Multidistrict Activities—Approval to Solicit Cooperation*

*20.070.6. Multidistrict PETS Guidelines*

*34.040.7. Requests for Exception to Guidelines for Use of “Rotary” Name*

### **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.

##### A. 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.

##### B. 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. (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 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; 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

