

«Name_Ergänzung»
«Straße»
«Postleitzahl» «Ort»
«Land»

VA-5200/0033-INT/2015

Vienna, 22 September 2015

Dear colleague,

Thank you very much for your interest in joining the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI).

The IOI is an independent and non-governmental organization currently representing more than 170 ombudsman institutions from around 90 countries all over the world. There are different membership categories open to institutions, organizations, libraries and individuals. You can find detailed information on these different categories in the 2012 IOI By-laws, Art. 6 (see attachment 1). Please note that only ombudsman institutions can become Voting members, provided they fulfill the criteria set out in Art. 6 (2).

With the most recent reform of the IOI By-laws also a new application procedure was implemented, ensuring coherent, transparent and equal standards for all applicants. Every institution wishing to join the IOI is asked to complete the new IOI application questionnaire (see attachment 2) and return it to the IOI for assessment. Part I of the questionnaire covers the basic data of the applicant institution. Part II collects information required to assess the application for membership. Part III includes information which is sought to clarify the context in which the applicant institution does its work but has no direct effect on the outcome of the application procedure. In completing the questionnaire, it is essential to make references to primary sources (e.g. constitution, law) in order to provide the IOI Board with essential background information. These primary sources need to be attached to the application in one of the official languages of the IOI.

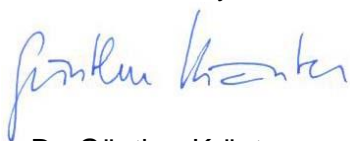
Article 7 of the IOI By-laws stipulates the procedures governing membership applications and

therefore also indicates the next steps of your application. After reviewing the completed questionnaire, I will consult the Regional President of the region from which the application for membership originates to ascertain the Regional President's view on the application. Before the IOI Board makes a final decision on the application, the Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board. The outcome of the procedure will be communicated to your institution as soon as possible.

Let me assure you that the General Secretariat will do its best to ensure the efficient assessment of your application in the briefest possible period of time. Should you have any further questions during the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the IOI General Secretariat (ioi@volksanw.gv.at).

I am looking forward to a closer co-operation with your institution and thank you once again for your interest in the work of the International Ombudsman Institute.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Günther Kräuter', is written over the typed name.

Dr. Günther Kräuter
IOI Secretary General

Attachments:

Attachment 1: IOI By-laws

Attachment 2: IOI application questionnaire