

## **Statute for the *Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe*, herein referred to as AIDA**

### **I. About AIDA**

Founded in Paris, in 1992, AIDA is an academic, non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious association which gathers researchers from all over the world engaged in linguistic research on Arabic dialects in conferences organized in cooperation with a host institution.

### **II. Membership**

Membership in AIDA is obtained by regularly paying the membership fees in AIDA conferences. Prospective new members must submit an abstract as described below. If accepted, they may register for AIDA and pay dues at the conference. Membership is renewable at every AIDA conference and shall last until the following conference. Dues for AIDA are proposed by the Executive Board and approved by membership vote. They are payable at each AIDA conference. In order to encourage and facilitate the entrance of young scholars into the AIDA community, AIDA offers a number of Grants for Young Researchers to help offset travel and conference fees costs. Number and size of the grants can vary, depending on the financial availability of the association. All MA and PhD students undertaking research on Arabic dialects are encouraged to submit abstracts and apply for this grant.

### **III. Officers and Organizational Structure**

AIDA shall be administered by an Executive Board composed of:

1. One President,
2. Two Vice-Presidents,
3. One General Secretary, and
4. One Treasurer.

The Board shall meet during the meetings of the Association and conduct its business between meetings (either in person or remotely). The Board shall review and present a report to the membership during the General Assembly, including:

1. Finances and budget, including membership dues and meeting fees,
2. Issues relating to publications of the Association, and
3. Presentation, discussion of and voting on the venue of future conferences.

### **IV. Elections**

The board shall be elected by all current members of AIDA who are present during the General Assembly. Each Board member shall only serve for a term of three successive AIDA meetings, unless there is no candidacy, in which case he/she can renew his/her mandate (if he/she so wishes). Candidates for the Board may be nominated by any member of AIDA, including current members

of the Board, and names are collected by the current Board acting as a nominating committee. A candidate must have been a member in the last three AIDAs (not counting the current one), that is, by paying the fees. If there is more than one candidate, the General Assembly will vote. Only regular members present during the General Assembly can vote. No voting proxy may be given to another member.

## **V. Meeting and Conference**

AIDA shall organize, in cooperation with a host institution, a conference on the linguistic study of Arabic dialects, which also serves as the regular meeting of the General Assembly of the Association. The General Assembly of the members will be held the penultimate day of the conference to conduct the business of AIDA. During the General Assembly, the Board shall present a report to the association. In case of dismissal or resignation of any member of the Board, the regular members of AIDA shall elect a successor during the General Assembly. Members will also vote on the venue for the following conference. The Board is responsible for collecting proposals from members interested in hosting.

## **VI. Communication within AIDA**

No one is authorized to use the aida mailing list. Messages must be sent to the members of the Board who will circulate information from the official email address (aidaboard@protonmail.com) with all addresses in blind copy.

## **VII. Procedures for Reviewing Conference Abstracts**

The Board shall appoint a non-elected Scientific Committee composed of 10-20 members who shall be responsible for reviewing all abstracts and determining their acceptance before every conference. Abstracts must be submitted to the Scientific Committee by the deadline specified in the first conference circular, and its decision about acceptance or rejection shall be final. There will be two reviewers per abstract. The abstracts will be evaluated according to the criteria mentioned in the review form put in the appendix to the Statute. All the reviews must be placed in an online folder that all the members of the Board and the organizers can access. If there is disagreement among the members of the Organizing Committee, they should inform the Board and the board will take a final decision on acceptance or rejection. Proposals must be in accordance with the general scholarly contents of the AIDA's conferences. They will be evaluated by blind peer review (anonymously) according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance: Currency and significance of the proposed topic and/or the originality of the study.
2. Theory: Knowledge of the relevant research literature, theoretical orientation, and practical application to the proposed topic.
3. Methodology: Research design, including clearly stated questions, data sources, data collection procedures, and analytic approach, as applicable.
4. Argumentation: Coherence of argumentation, and clarity of the abstract.

AIDA conferences may feature poster sessions. The criteria listed above also apply to poster abstract evaluation.

### **VIII. Amendments and resolutions**

Any proposed amendment to the AIDA Statute will be discussed and voted upon AIDA's General Assembly. A proposed amendment must be submitted to the President no fewer than 30 days prior to AIDA conference. A simple majority of those voting shall prevail.