

**International Music Council
takes key decisions for the future of the organization**

Paris, October 30, 2007. The 32nd General Assembly of the International Music Council, held in Beijing, October 14-16, 2007, adopted a series of key decisions that will pave the way to building greater capacity of the organization and its members to work towards its vision to be the world's leading professional organization dedicated to the development and promotion of diverse music.

Drawing on the IMC's mission to provide exceptional value to its membership by building knowledge, creating networking opportunities, supporting and enhancing the visibility of projects that help sustain people's participation in music life, the IMC will carry out its future action in accordance with a **strategic plan** elaborated by its Executive Board over the past two years. The seven strategic objectives outlined in this plan have been translated into **action lines** for the coming biennium, which will be implemented through advocacy, research, policy formation and capacity-building. **Working committees** led by Board members will seek members' active participation.

In addition to normal business regarding new admissions as well as exclusions and suspensions, finance and budget, the General Assembly adopted a **new membership structure** that will allow any organization in the field of arts and culture that subscribes to IMC mission and objectives, to become a voting member of the IMC. Along with this new structure, a new membership fee scale was also agreed upon.

The General Assembly re-elected **Richard Letts (Australia) President** for a second 2-year term. Mr. Letts serves as the Executive Director of the Music Council of Australia. He holds a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and was director of two performing arts schools in the USA before returning to Australia as Director of Music for the Australia Council, the national arts policy and funding body. Subsequently, he was Director of the Australian Music Centre, the resource centre for Australian music composition and creation, before founding the national music council in 1994. He is a musician, author, editor, researcher, policy maker and advocate on a very broad front.

The General Assembly elected also three new members of the Executive Board: **Sonja Greiner (Germany)**, **Liane Hentschke (Brazil)** and **Timo Klemettinen (Finland)**.

Mr. Letts will be joined in the Board's Directorate by **Beata Schanda (Hungary)** as executive vice-president, **Felipe de Leon (Philippines)** and **Peter Rantasa (Austria)** as vice-presidents; as well as **Lars Grunth (Denmark)** as treasurer.

Three distinguished personalities were elected to join the circle of Honorary Members of IMC, chosen among the world's outstanding professionals, educators, performers and composers: **Gengchen Fu (China)**, **Einar Solbu (Norway)** and **Zuqiang Wu (China)**.

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Over 70 delegates from all over the world representing national committees, international and regional music organisations as well as associate members, along with representatives of Regional Music Councils and Regional Secretariats of the IMC, attended the meeting. Altogether, 36 nations were represented.

The Assembly was held in conjunction with the 2nd IMC World Forum on Music and hosted by the Chinese Musicians Association, with the support of a number of sponsors and partners.

The International Music Council (IMC) is a membership organisation created in 1949 by the Director General of UNESCO as the advisory body to the agency on musical matters. It is based at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and functions as an independent international NGO maintaining a formal associate relationship with UNESCO.

Over the past fifty years, IMC has developed as a world expert organisation, a forum for exchange and reflection and an observatory in the field of music. Mandated to promote all types of music, IMC is an organisation positioned to speak to governments, institutions and regions; it works through and for its members internationally to support the development and the promotion of diverse music and the role of musicians in the context of social, cultural and economic development.

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