Article I
- Name

1. The name of the Society is "International Society of Family Law".

Article II
- Nature and Objectives

1. The Society is an international, voluntary membership organization not for profit. The Society is non-political and shall not engage in any political activities nor take a position on any international or national political or religious matter.
2. The Society's objective is the study and discussion of family law. To this end, the Society sponsors and promotes:
   (a) international co-operation in research on family law and family law reform;
   (b) periodic international conferences on family law subjects of world-wide interest;
   (c) collection and dissemination of information in the field of family law by the publication of a Survey and newsletter concerning developments in family law throughout the world, and by publication of relevant materials in family law, including papers presented at conferences of the Society;
   (d) co-operation with other international, regional or national associations having the same or similar objectives;
   (e) interdisciplinary contact and research;
   (f) the advancement of legal education in family law by all practical means including furtherance of exchanges of teachers, students, and practising lawyers;
   (g) other objectives furthering or connected with the above objectives.

Article III
- Membership and Dues

1. There are four categories of membership in the society:
   (a) Ordinary membership which is open to academic teachers of law or related disciplines and members of the legal or related professions.
   (b) Institutional membership which is open to interested organizations, at the discretion of, and on terms approved by the Council.
   (c) Student membership which is open to interested students of law and related disciplines at the discretion of and on terms approved by the Council.
   (d) Honorary Membership. The Council may propose to the General Meeting of the Society that persons of distinction be elected as Honorary Members. Election shall be by majority votes of members present. Proposals for honorary membership should be made through a Committee consisting of the President, the General Secretary and the two past presidents.

Article IV
- Officers

1. The officers of the Society are:
   (a) The President and six Vice-Presidents,
   (b) the General Secretary (and any Regional Secretary who may be approved by the General Meeting on the recommendation of the Council),
   (c) the Treasurer, and
   (d) the Editor of the International Survey (appointed by the Council).
2. The Council may establish such other officers as it may consider appropriate.
3. Any member of the Society is eligible to serve as an officer. The officers hold office until the end of the General Meeting next following their election. Excepting the President, the officers are eligible for re-election, but may not (except the Treasurer) serve more than three consecutive
terms in the same office. If an officer resigns or for any other reason cannot hold office, the other officers shall appoint a successor from among the membership of the Council to hold office for the unexpired term.

4. President and Vice Presidents. The President, or in his absence, a Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Council. The President in collaboration with the Vice-Presidents, shall formulate and present at each General Meeting of the Society a report of the work of the Society for the years then closing. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall appoint the Chairman and members of all Committees of the Society and shall plan and superintend the programme of the Society, its Conferences and General Meetings during their terms, subject to the advice and approval of the Council. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall superintend the performance of all activities of the Society, shall keep the Council duly informed and carry out its decisions. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to their officers or as may be designated by the Council.

5. General Secretary. The Secretary shall consult with and assist other Officers of the Society in the work of the Society in such manner and to such extent as they may request The Secretary is custodian of all books, papers, documents and other property of the Society, except money. He shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and of the Council. In conjunction with the President and the Vice-Presidents and as authorized by the Council, he shall attend generally to the business of the Society.

6. Regional Secretary or Secretaries. The Council may appoint Regional Secretaries and delegate to them such portion of the General Secretary's functions as it may deem necessary or desirable.

7. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the money belonging to the Society. He shall keep and accurate record of all money appropriated to and expended for the use of the Society.

**Article V**
- **Council**

1. The Council comprises the Officers of the Society, the immediate Past President and nineteen other members with power to appoint further members as it may deem necessary or desirable.

2. The composition of the Council shall reflect so far as reasonable and possible, the international character of the Society.

3. Members of the Council shall vacate their office after the General Meeting next following their election. They are eligible for re-election.

4. The Council is charged with the general supervision of the management of the Society's affairs by the officers and has such additional powers, duties and responsibilities as are delegated to it by the General Meeting. Committees to further the objects of the Society may be established by the Council with such powers, functions and duties as the Council may determine.

5. The Officers shall call meetings at such places and at such times as they may consider convenient and necessary, but at least once each year.

6. Three of the members of the Council and two officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any duly called meeting of the Council. Binding action of the Council shall be by majority vote of the members present or voting by mail as hereinafter provided. There shall be no voting by proxy.

7. As soon as practicable after each Council meeting, the Secretary shall submit to each member of the Council a copy of the minutes of the meeting specifying the decisions reached and actions taken at the meeting.

8. On matters deemed by them to be of substantial importance and when time permits the President and the Vice-Presidents may direct that the Council vote by mail. In such a case, the Secretary shall circulate to the members of the Council a statement describing the matter(s) to be voted on, along with other available information which may include position statements prepared
by the officers or by proponents or opponents of the action proposed. The Secretary shall prepare appropriate ballots and establish reasonable time limits and procedures for the transmission of information and the taking of the vote. He shall keep on file all ballots returned to him. The votes of a majority of the members of the Council who are participating in the vote shall constitute binding action.

9. Reports and publications shall be prepared and distributed upon such terms and conditions as the Council may provide.

Article VI
- Nomination and Election of Officers and Council Members
At each General Meeting, the Officers (other than the Editor of the International Survey) and Members of the Council shall be elected in the following manner:
1. Any two members of the Society may nominate a member to the Council, if the name of such nominee signifying his approval to the nomination is contained in a letter signed by the nominating members and received not later than 60 days in advance of the General Meeting.
2. Any five members of the Society may nominate a member to be an officer if the name of such nominee signifying his approval to the nomination is contained in a letter signed by the nominating members and received not later than 60 days in advance of the General Meeting.
3. Each candidate shall have the right to submit a statement of not more than 200 words which shall be included with the ballots (if received in sufficient copies before the ballots are sent out).

4. The ballot for members of the Council and the Officers with appropriate instructions shall be sent to all members of the Society not later than 45 days in advance of the General Meeting.
5. Each member shall be required to return his ballot to the General Secretary so that it will be received at least 10 days in advance of the General Meeting unless it is to be handed to the Secretary or his representative in person at least 24 hours before the General Meeting. Ballots may be returned by fax or email or postal mail or hand delivery. No ballot shall be counted unless the member has paid his dues.
6. Ballots shall be secret, but members may waive confidentiality and return ballots by fax or email if they choose. In order to ensure that a ballot is legitimate, a member may be required to sign a separate enclosure accompanying the ballot.
7. Not later than 24 hours in advance of the General Meeting, at least three people, none of whom is a candidate, and appointed by the Council, shall jointly open the ballot boxes and tally the votes. Election shall be by a plurality of the votes cast.

Article VII
- General Meeting
1. A General Meeting of the membership shall be held in conjunction with the Society's periodic Conference, or at not less than at intervals of three years.
2. The Agenda for the General Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary in consultation with the officers and members of the Council. The agenda shall include a report by the President, a report by the Society's Treasurer or Auditor, and such other matters as may be relevant. The Agenda for the General Meeting shall be sent with the ballot papers to all the members not later than 45 days in advance of the General Meeting.
3. At or before the conclusion of each General Meeting, the tentative theme, date and location of the next Conference and General Meeting shall be considered and recommendations may be formulated.
4. The members of the Society present at the General Meeting, who are in good standing, shall constitute a quorum. All binding action, except the election of officers and members of the council and the amendment of these bye-laws shall be by a majority vote of such members.
5. In its discretion, the Council may direct that a matter be submitted to the members of the
Society for vote my mail. In such event binding action shall be by a majority of the votes received from members in good standing in accordance with rules fixed by the Council.

**Article VIII**
- Conferences
1. Conferences shall be held on such family law subjects of current interest and at such times and places as may be determined by the Council, taking into account recommendations made by the General Meeting. The Council shall appoint a Convener and an Organizing Committee which will have authority to make decisions as authorized by the Council. If practicable, such conferences shall be held at least every three years in conjunction with the General Meeting.
2. The following persons shall be entitled to attend the conferences:
   (a) Members of the Society,
   (b) All persons accredited by member organizations,
   (c) Persons invited by the Convener and Organizing Committee to attend,
   (d) Observers approved by the Convener and Organizing Committee,
   (e) Members of the Press.

**Article IX**
- Amendment of the Bye-Laws
Provided a proposed amendment shall first have been approved by a majority of the Council, the Bye-Laws of the Society may be amended by the vote of a majority of the members of the Society voting at a General Meeting or by mail. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be given in writing to all members as part of the agenda for the General Meeting.

**Article X**
- Financial Affairs and Accounting
1. The expenses of the Society shall be met by dues from the members and subscribing organizations and by such subsidies, donations, and other income as the Council shall see fit to accept. No expenditures shall be made or liabilities incurred beyond the amount of the funds available.
2. The financial affairs of the Society involving fundraising and budgeting shall be the responsibility of the Council which may delegate certain duties to the officers or to appropriate committees.
3. The Society's financial year shall be the calendar year (September 1991 Resolution) [previously it commenced on April 1st and end on March 31st].
4. The Executive Council may in its discretion appoint an Auditor or auditors who shall submit a statement of accounts.