



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MILITARY MEDICINE

REGULATION OF INTERNAL ORDER

TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

Reference: Statutes of the ICMM, Article 20

**Vote: General Assembly of the ICMM in South Africa (September 2002) – first version
General Assembly of the ICMM in Nusa Dua Bali, Indonesia, May 2015 – second version.
General Assembly of the ICMM in Brussels, Belgium, September 2022 – third version**

These regulations supplement the Statutes of the ICMM, which refer to the Technical Commissions.

1. Definition and dependency

The Technical Commission (TC) is an entity created as part of the Scientific Council (SC) of the ICMM in order to examine specific technical aspects of medicine and the impact on military medicine as defined in Article 3 of the Statutes. The Technical Commissions represent the various professional groups and disciplines involved in military medicine and actively participate in the dissemination of scientific progress in the international military medicine community.

The Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM may propose the creation of a TC to the Secretary-General of the ICMM as they see fit. The creation of a TC is ratified by a vote at the General Assembly (GA) of the ICMM.

The Chair of the Scientific Council (Chair and Deputy Chair) coordinates the activities of the Technical Commissions. The Chair submits the results of the TCs' work to the Secretary-General together with their technical opinion.

2. Roles and functions

The roles and functions of the TC include actively participating in the collation, production and dissemination of scientific progress in their respective fields of expertise within the international military medicine community.

The scientific contribution of a TC in its field of expertise centres on monitoring progress made by the international scientific community, with a particular focus on the impact of said progress on military medicine in a broad sense.

The TC also aims to disseminate this scientific progress across various scientific activities of the ICMM, such as sourcing and editing articles for the *International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services*, identifying speakers for various scientific activities of the ICMM (congresses, conferences, workshops, symposiums, round tables, etc.) and actively participating in the courses organised by the member states under the stewardship of the ICMM.

3. Creation and composition

In order for a Technical Commission to be set up, the Secretary-General of the ICMM and the Chair of the Scientific Council must appoint a military medicine professional capable of taking on the requisite responsibilities.

The Secretary-General will contact the national delegates so that they can propose candidates for the position of Chair.

The selection of candidates for the position of Chair of a Technical Commission is based on an evaluation of their professional expertise and scientific competencies, but also on their experience across various functions and the responsibilities they have held at both a national and international level. The final decision rests with the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM.

If a national delegate proposes a potential candidate for the position of Chair of a TC, they will make the following formal commitments to the Secretary-General of the ICMM:

- that the candidate respects the Statutes of the ICMM.
- that their country authorises them to take part in the meetings necessary for the proper functioning of the Scientific Council as well as in ICMM activities (congresses, courses, etc.).
- that their country authorises them to dedicate the time necessary to properly perform their duties at the TC of the ICMM.
- that their country will provide financial support for the activities associated with the position of Chair of a TC.

The ICMM will assume responsibility for financing tasks assigned by the ICMM Secretariat General.

During the General Assembly, the Chair of the Scientific Council will propose the candidacy and put the proposal to a vote among national delegates. Once elected, the Chair of a TC will commit to the position for a period of FOUR years. TC Chairs may be re-elected for one further term.

However, a Technical Commission cannot be reduced to the position of Chair alone. Technical Commissions are made up of national representatives who actively contribute to the work of the TC.

The national delegates of the ICMM are responsible for identifying any experts within their country who may be able to contribute towards the work of the TC. The national representative must have the full support of the national hierarchy in order to ensure that they can contribute in the best possible manner.

A mandate will be established for the national representatives designated by the national delegate that will include the following aspects:

- The authorisation to take part in meetings of the TC centred on the major scientific activities of the ICMM.
- The authorisation to dedicate the time necessary to properly perform their duties at the TC of the ICMM.
- The commitment from the country represented by the national delegate to provide financial support for the ongoing activities of the TC to which the national representative belongs.

Article 4 Work and activities

The Chair of a Technical Commission will establish a work plan that must be validated by the Chair of the Scientific Council, who may modify and prioritise said plan.

When organising a scientific activity of the ICMM (such as a congress or course), the organisers must involve – through the Chair of the Scientific Council – the Chairs of the relevant TCs with the aim of proposing topics and/or questions to be discussed in the commission. They must also arrange for the production and publication of the results of this work.

On the basis of these contacts, the Chair of a TC will utilise the networks created within the commission to help establish topics that will be addressed during scientific activities. After coordinating with the Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM, the Chair of a TC is tasked with determining how their commission will contribute to the scientific activity of the event in question.

It makes sense, for clear financial reasons, to make use of international scientific activities (global or regional) to organise TC meetings. Outside of these meetings, commission work can now be carried out easily thanks to modern methods of communication (video conferencing, emails, etc.)

The quality of the work and activities of the TC will be evaluated from a qualitative perspective in a periodic manner by the Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM. The conclusions drawn from these evaluations and the recommendations that prove to be necessary (such as the dissolution of a TC, for example) will be the subject of a presentation at the General Assembly by the Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM.

At least three months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly of the ICMM, the Chair of each Technical Commission will provide to the Chair of the Scientific Council a report on the achievements of the commission and an overview of the progress of its work. This report will be part of the report presented at the General Assembly of the ICMM

Article 6 Links with international or regional partner organisations

Establishing links between the TC and international (global or regional) partner organisations of the ICMM (WHO, ICRC, WOA, IMSC, etc.) is a “natural” way of promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience in the fields of expertise of the TC.

The Chairs of the TC are tasked by the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Scientific Council of the ICMM with establishing contact with these organisations with the aim of guiding the work of their TCs.

Article 7 Support from the ICMM

The ICMM undertakes to provide administrative and logistical support in order to help the Technical Commission function properly and achieve its objectives.

Specifically, the ICMM will:

- provide a space for collaboration (cloud) for the purposes of data storage and sharing of information between the members of the commission.
- set up a group email address for all specified members of the TC.
- dedicate a section of the ICMM website to the publication of the results of the TC's work.

The Chair may discuss other forms of support with the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Scientific Council.

Article 6 Continuity of activities

A certain level of stability is required to guarantee continuity and coherence in the activities of a TC, which is why the Chairs of the TCs are appointed by the General Assembly for an initial term of four years with the possibility of re-election for a second term of four years.

During this term, the continuity of the TC's work must be ensured through stable and consistent participation from national members and the suitable identification of potential successors. The transfer of responsibilities to a new Chair of the TC must be prepared in advance to ensure that, when a new Chair is appointed, previous work, knowledge and expertise is not suddenly lost.

Article 7 Exchange of information

There must be greater awareness of the work of the TCs within the ICMM. The Chairs of the TCs must strive to make their work more visible. All scientific activities of the ICMM, such as courses, workshops, round tables, publications, the ICMM website, etc. should be used to disseminate work.

The latest telecommunications technology also allows work to be circulated more readily and the use of blogs, forums, FAQs on websites, content management systems, cloud computing, etc. (see paragraph 5) should be promoted.

Article 8 Thematic Working Groups

Alongside Technical Commissions, the Secretary-General may also create Thematic Working Groups in specific and relevant fields of expertise, which are made up of national experts who focus on pre-defined projects, such as a group of specialists concentrating on CBRN areas.

These groups will be given a mandate for a set amount of time that is clearly linked to the objectives of the project, such as the publication of international recommendations in the form of reports, updates, articles, seminars, workshops, specific training, etc. on the ICMM website or other forms of media.

These mandates will be established by the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Scientific Council and presented to the General Assembly.

At least three months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly of the ICMM, the Chair of each Thematic Working Group will provide to the Chair of the Scientific Council a report on the achievements of the working group and an overview of the progress of its work. This report will be part of the report presented at the General Assembly of the ICMM.