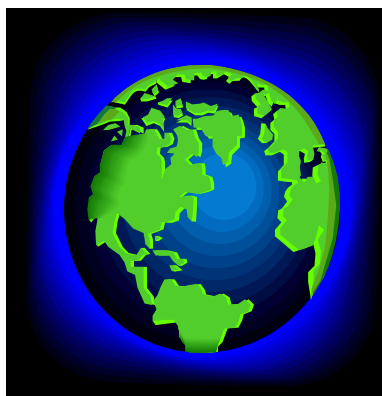


CONSTITUTION FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS
COMMITTEE (WCC) OF BEHAVIOURAL
AND COGNITIVE THERAPIES



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CONSTITUTION for WORLD CONGRESS COMMITTEE BEHAVIOURAL & COGNITIVE THERAPIES

The need to establish a decision body for deciding about future World Congresses (WC) in Behaviour Therapy and Cognitive Therapy has been discussed for many years. Representatives for the world community of Behaviour Therapy and Cognitive Therapy have been working to establish these constitutions.

BACKGROUND

A series of World Congresses (WC) in Behaviour and Cognitive Therapy have already been held. The two first WCs were organized by the Behaviour Therapy community. Next came the first WC for Cognitive Therapy, and then every other WC was for either BT or CT, until 1995, which was the first combined BT and CT Congress. Hopefully, a long series of combined Congresses will follow.

So far, these congresses have not been real “world congresses,” at least not the Behaviour Therapy WC, in the sense that they have not been arranged by the world community in behaviour therapy, but by subgroups of that community. Specifically, the first two WCs in BT were organized by EABCT and AABT, respectively, which called their EABCT- and AABT-congresses “World Congresses.” The following two were decided by the AGM (Annual General Meeting) of the EABCT and representatives at the International Associates meeting of the AABT. However, these two meetings cannot be said to be representative of 81 associations worldwide, even if all are invited to the International Associates Meeting at the AABT Congress.

The World Congresses in CT, on the other hand, represented the world community of CT, as the International Association of Cognitive Psychotherapies is an international organization. The 1995 Copenhagen congress is more inclusive than the earlier congresses, as it included both the World organization on CT (IACP) and most of the world community in FIT from the early planning stage. Still, it was not totally representative worldwide.

The list of WCs so far (as of 2004), including the Copenhagen WC in 1995, thus could be listed as follows:

- 1st WCBT in Jerusalem 1980
- 2nd WCBT in Washington DC 1983
- 1st WCCT in Umea 1986
- 3rd WCBT in Edinburgh 1988
- 2nd WCCT in Oxford 1989
- 4th WCBT in Brisbane/Gold Coast 1992
- 3rd WCCT in Toronto 1992
- 1st WCBCT in Copenhagen 1995
- 2nd WCBCT in Acapulco 1998
- 3rd WCBCT in Vancouver 2001
- 4th WCBCT in Kobe 2004
- 5th WCBCT to be held in Barcelona 2007

Since BT and CT are growing around the world, the necessity of creating a democratic “decision-making” body concerning the venues of future world congresses is clear. In the absence of a World Federation or some other form of a world organization for BT, a continental organization seems natural. Including the CT organization, we could thus think of seven umbrella organizations that should be represented in deciding future World Congress venues. These are:

1. AABT North America
2. ABMA Australia
3. ALAMOC South America
4. EABCT Europe
5. Asia (coordinated by JABT)
6. Africa (coordinated by SAABT)
7. IACP (International)

REPRESENTATION

Each umbrella association elects ONE (1) representative (along with one deputy) to serve on the WORLD CONGRESS COMMITTEE (WCC) for a period corresponding to the interval between World Congresses. The chairman of the organization committee of the previous WC is also included in the WCC for the sake of continuity. Among themselves, the representatives elect one person as chairman and one as secretary. A representative should be a person who is well known to the umbrella association and regularly participates in its meetings. He/she should be responsible for reporting back to the AGM on the WCC work, especially concerning submissions for future WC's. The purpose is to obtain input from the national representatives at the AGM regarding their views on the submissions. This does not mean that the umbrella associations decide how the representative must vote at the WCC meeting, only that the representative should be well versed regarding its opinion.

MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION

The mandate period for a WCC is from one WC to the next. At that time, a new WCC is established. Questions arising anytime will be addressed by the WCC presiding at that moment.

The WCC convenes at least once every three years. Its primary task will be to decide the venue of the next-but-one WC. Most of the other communications can take place via fax or phone (teleconferences). Extra meetings will take place at the discretion of the chairman or if at least three committee members require a meeting. For the past several years, annual meetings have occurred at the AABT convention each November.

As the WCC will have no budget of its own, the representatives or the umbrella organizations are responsible for their own travel expenses in relation to the WCC work.

SUBMISSION OP PROPOSALS AND TIME SCHEDULE

A newly elected WCC starts to work prior to or during a World Congress. Shortly thereafter, they invite proposals for hosting the next-but-one WC (six years later). A proposal to host a World Congress of Behavior and Cognitive Therapies can only be submitted to the World Congress Committee by one of the seven umbrella organizations. Any one umbrella organization can submit only one proposal to the WCC at a given time. In the event that there is more than one proposal emanating from associations within the same umbrella organization, the board of that organization has to decide which of the proposals it will submit to the WCC. The proposals must be submitted to the chairman of the WCC by July 1st of the year after invitation. In order to be processed, the submission must comply with the requirements of proposals (see *Suggested Guidelines for Hosting a World Congress*), and there must be a sufficient number of copies. The decision will be made by the WCC by July 1st of the next year, that is four years before the WC in question.

By having the submission deadline one-year ahead of the decision time, there will be enough time for the umbrella organizations to discuss the submissions and the representatives to form an opinion before a decision is made. In the unlikely event that there is no proposal at all,

or no proposal fulfilling the requirements, the WCC will suggest one country for the next WC, asking the association of that country to appoint a congress organizer.

By setting up detailed requirements for the submissions, it is assured that different proposals can be compared on an equal basis. If a submission is incomplete, it will not be processed, but sent back to the submitting local association. At the discretion of the WCC chairman, the proposal will either be discarded or given the opportunity to be completed within two months in order to still compete for the upcoming WC. With such an outline, the time schedule will look as follows (note that the time schedule can be adjusted to other than three-year intervals between WCCs):

1. World Congress is held
2. Open invitation is made to 7 umbrella organizations to submit a proposal for hosting congress 6 years from that time
3. Submissions are due by July 1st of the next year
4. Decisions by the WCC are made by July 1st of the following year (i.e., 4 years prior to the congress in question) where the congress will be held and which umbrella organization will serve as host.
5. This process gets repeated to maintain a structured schedule of world congresses.

If an association which has been mandated to arrange an upcoming WC plans to make significant modifications in the approved proposal (e.g., changes in the previous agreed upon venue or the registration fee), this association must consult with the WCC before the changes are decided upon.

The WCC will serve in an advisory role regarding various issues in the organization of world congresses. Organizers of world congresses are encouraged to seek the input of all WCC umbrella associations in the formation of the committee and the development of the scientific program. It is suggested that host associations keep the WCC abreast of the progress and activities related to the organization of world congresses

DECISION MAKING

All WCC decisions, including the choice of venue for future World Congresses, will be made consensually.

SPREAD AROUND THE GLOBE

It is the intention of the WCC that the congresses should be held on all continents across time. However, this does not mean that it is necessary to choose a venue at a certain continent that has not had a WC at all or in recent years if a more desirable alternative is available at the time of decision.