

# International Theatre Institute ITI

## World Organization for the Performing Arts

UNESCO, 1 rue Mollis  
75732 Paris Cedex 15 / France  
[t.biancone@iti-worldwide.org](mailto:t.biancone@iti-worldwide.org)  
**President:** Mohamed Saif AL-AFKHAM  
**Director General:** Tobias BIANCONE

To:  
Members of ITI  
Participating Artists & Educators of  
the 35<sup>th</sup> ITI World Congress in Manaus

UNES CO/Paris and Shanghai, 16 April 2016

### Cancellation of the ITI World Congress in Manaus

Dear ITI Members

As you can see in the attached letter from the Municipality of Manaus the Congress has to be cancelled.

Brazil has changed in the last few weeks due to political and governmental problems. People are angry with the government and the current leader may have to quit the government very soon. For this weekend it is expected that the people are manifesting against the government once more.

Due to this situation the government administration is not functioning anymore, especially money is withheld – including the money for the ITI Congress. Between the Manaus Municipality and ITI there were intense discussions in the last few days if additional money could be found elsewhere. But it turned out that it is not just the economic reason that has led to the cancellation of the Congress: It is the political unstable situation that influenced the decision. It is above all the security of the Congress delegates, the artists and educators that cannot be guaranteed.

At the moment the letter of the Municipality that is attached and this statement is all that we can transfer to you. The situation must be worse than what you hear in the media. Last week, the Mayor of Manaus went to Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, to solve the situation for his town and for the Congress, but came back with empty hands.

Together with Marcio Souza, Executive Council Member who is leading the Congress team in Manaus, we are extremely sad about this development. The Manaus team, the General Secretariat and Executive Council team worked relentlessly in the past two years for having this Congress in Manaus. Together we went through all the issues during three site visits and intense communication over phone and email.

We will not give up to pursue our goals and explore all the possibilities to have a Congress. It may be in Manaus, when the situation is under control, or elsewhere.

Let's work together for keeping the dedication we have for ITI, for the performing arts and for our mission. We keep you informed about the progress and will answer your questions.

This letter is sent to you in agreement with the Executive Council ITI.

Yours sincerely,

Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham  
President ITI

Tobias Biancone  
Director General ITI

Attachment:

- [This letter as PDF \(with signatures\)](#)
- [Letter Manaus announcing the cancellation as PDF \(with signatures\)](#)