# AIIC Position on Distance Interpreting

AIIC is the only global association of conference interpreters, promoting high standards of quality and ethics in the profession and defending the interests and welfare of its members. Just as AIIC has always supported face-to-face interpreting scenarios (technology, mode and working conditions) that underpin interpretation quality and interpreter wellbeing, this is no less the case for distance interpreting scenarios.

AIIC recognises that on-going developments in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the application of this technology to conference interpreting could have far-reaching repercussions on the multilingual communicative process as a whole, including the quality of conference interpretation and the wellbeing of conference interpreters.

AIIC recognises that ICTs enable new interpreting modalities. These include setups whereby interpreters have no direct view of speakers/signers, but rather an indirect, ICT-enabled audio/audiovisual feed of speakers/signers who are not in the same physical location as interpreters, as well as setups where interpreters within the same team and even booth may be at different locations.

AIIC recognises that different Distance Interpreting scenarios provide interpreters with varying quantity and quality of sensory input, with differing possibilities for effective teamwork, and that such forms of Distance Interpreting may present both technological and human challenges.

AIIC recognises that some modalities and setups could be more conducive to interpretation quality and interpreter wellbeing than others.

AIIC recognises that the following forms of Distance Interpreting are being performed, as defined in the Annex hereto:

- Videoconference Interpreting
- Audioconference Interpreting
- Video Remote Interpreting
- Audio Remote Interpreting

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AIIC recognises the importance of all ISO standards relating to conference interpreting, interpreting equipment and sound and image input to interpreters, and that all Distance Interpreting modalities must meet the applicable requirements of those standards, as well as the Association's own technical specifications.

AIIC has developed working conditions for conference interpreters working on-site in face-to-face interactions.

AIIC recognizes that Distance Interpreting modalities are perceived by conference interpreters as fundamentally different and, as such, require clearly defined working conditions adapted to each specific modality.

AIIC recognises that said working conditions for Distance Interpreting modalities must be based on independent and objective research.

Consequently, AIIC, through its Task Force on Distance Interpreting, is committed to sparing no effort in developing and adopting evidence-based working conditions that provide for both quality of interpretation and interpreter wellbeing, through the systematic and methodical testing of Distance Interpreting modalities in real work environments.

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# Annex

## Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions were used in AIIC's first Distance Interpreting Survey, issued to all members on 8 January 2018.

## Distance Interpreting

Information and communications technology (ICT)-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s)/signer(s) at a given event.

### 1. Teleconference Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s)/signer(s), where the interpreter has a direct view of some or all the other participants at a given event.

#### 1.1. Videoconference Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more speaker(s)/signer(s), where the interpreter has a video-mediated view of the speaker and a direct view of some or all the other participants at a given event.

#### 1.2. Audioconference Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s), where the interpreter has no view of the speaker but a direct view of some or all the other participants at a given event.

### 2. Remote Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s)/signer(s), where the interpreter has no direct view of the participants at a given event.

#### 2.1. Video Remote Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s)/signer(s), where the interpreter has a video-mediated view of that speaker/signer but no direct view of the other participants at a given event.

#### 2.2. Audio Remote Interpreting

ICT-enabled interpreting of one or more distant speaker(s), where the interpreter has no view of the speaker nor of any other participants at a given event.

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