

IAG Statutes adopted by the IAG Council

at the XXVI IUGG General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic, 2015

1. Definition of Terms

- (a) Geodesy is the discipline that deals with the measurement and representation (geometry, physics, and temporal variations) of the Earth and other celestial bodies.
- (b) IUGG means the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.
- (c) IAG or Association means the International Association of Geodesy.
- (d) Adhering Body and Council have the same meaning as in the Statutes of the IUGG.
- (e) General Assembly means an assembly for scientific and/or administrative purposes of:
 - (i) scientists from geodesy and other Earth science disciplines;
 - (ii) the Council delegates (or alternative delegates) appointed by the Adhering Bodies; and
 - (iii) individual members as defined by Statute 6(b).
- (f) Scientific Assembly means an assembly for primarily scientific purposes and therefore it does not normally require the presence of the delegates appointed by the Adhering Bodies.
- (g) Council Delegate means the person appointed by the Adhering Body to be member of the Council for four years. Adhering Bodies may appoint an Alternative Delegate to a Council meeting if the Permanent Delegate cannot attend the meeting.
- (h) Period means the interval of time between the closures of two successive ordinary General Assemblies.

2. International Association of Geodesy

- (a) The International Association of Geodesy:
 - (i) is a constituent Association of the IUGG; and
 - (ii) is subject to the Statutes and Bylaws of the IUGG.
- (b) In the event of the dissolution of the IAG, its assets shall be ceded to the IUGG.

3. Mission

The Mission of the Association is the advancement of geodesy. The IAG implements its mission by furthering geodetic theory through research and teaching, by collecting, analyzing, modelling and interpreting observational data, by stimulating technological development and by providing a consistent representation of the figure, rotation, and gravity field of the Earth and planets, and their temporal variations.

4. Objectives

The IAG shall pursue the following objectives to achieve its mission:

- (a) Study, at the highest possible level of accuracy, all geodetic problems related to Earth observation and global change, including:
 - i) Definition, establishment, and maintenance of global and regional reference systems for interdisciplinary use.
 - ii) Rotation of the Earth and planets.
 - iii) Positioning and deformation.
 - iv) Gravity field.
 - v) Ocean, ice and sea level.
 - vi) Atmosphere and hydrosphere.
 - vii) Time and frequency transfer.

- (b) Support the maintenance of geodetic reference systems and frames for continuous, long-term observations and archival of results.
- (c) Provide observational and processed data, standards, methodologies, and models in a form that ensures the broadest possible range of research and application.
- (d) Stimulate development and take advantage of emerging space and other technologies to increase the resolution and accuracy of geodetic data and products in order to advance geodetic and interdisciplinary research.
- (e) Initiate, coordinate, and promote international cooperation and knowledge exchange through symposia, workshops, summer schools, training courses, publications, and other means of communication.
- (f) Foster the development of geodetic activities and infrastructure in all regions of the world, taking into consideration the specific situation of developing countries.
- (g) Collaborate with the international science and engineering community in supporting the application of geodetic theory and techniques and the interpretation of results.
- (h) Cooperate with national and international agencies in establishing research goals, missions, and projects.

5. Structure and Administration

- (a) The Association's structure shall comprise a small number of components: Commissions, the Inter-commission Committee on Theory (ICCT), Services, the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB).
- (b) Subcomponents, such as IAG Projects, Sub-commissions, Commission Projects, Inter-commission Committees, and Study and Working Groups, may be formed as provided for in the Bylaws.
- (c) The administration of the IAG is carried out by the General Assembly, the Council, the Bureau and the Executive Committee. The COB is the office responsible for the promotional activities of the IAG and the communication with its members.

6. Membership

The membership of the IAG shall comprise:

- (a) Adhering Bodies; and
- (b) Individual members in accordance with the Bylaws

7. IAG Council

- (a) The Council is responsible for governance, strategic policy and direction.
- (b) The membership of the Council consists of delegates appointed by the Adhering Bodies.
- (c) Each Adhering Body may appoint one delegate subject to the conditions in (d) and (e) below.
- (d) A delegate may only represent one Adhering Body.
- (e) The President, Vice President and Secretary General may not serve as delegates.

8. Bureau

- (a) The Bureau of the Association consists of the President, the Vice President and the Secretary General.
- (b) The duties of the Bureau shall be to administer the affairs of the Association in accordance with these Statutes and Bylaws and with the decisions of the Council and the Executive Committee.

9. President

- (a) The President shall be elected by the Council.
- (b) The President shall provide general leadership for the Association.
- (c) The President presides over the meetings of the General Assembly, the Scientific Assembly, the Council, the Executive Committee, and the Bureau. The President has no vote in the Council meetings, except in the case of a tie as provided in 14(h).
- (d) The President, on completion of his or her term of office of one period, shall serve for the next period in the position of Immediate Past President.

10. Vice President

- (a) The Vice President shall be elected by the Council.
- (b) The Vice President shall perform such tasks as may be assigned by the President, the Executive Committee or the Council.
- (c) The Vice President assumes the functions, duties and powers of the President when the latter is absent or otherwise unable to assume office.

11. Secretary General

- (a) The Secretary General shall be elected by the Council.
- (b) The Secretary General shall serve as secretary of the General Assembly, the Scientific Assembly, the Council, the Executive Committee, and the Bureau and arrange for meetings of these bodies in accordance with the Bylaws.

12. Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following voting members: the Bureau, the immediate Past President, the Presidents of the Commissions, the President of the ICCT, the Chair of GGOS, the President of the COB, the three representatives of the Services, and two Members-at-Large to improve geographical and organizational balance.
- (b) Presidents of the Inter-commission Committees other than the ICCT, Chairs of the IAG Projects, and the Assistant Secretaries shall attend any meeting of the Executive Committee, with voice but without vote. The Past Presidents and past Secretaries General may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee, with voice but without vote, (except for the immediate Past President, who does have a vote).
- (c) The election of Executive Committee members shall be in accordance with the Bylaws.
- (d) The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to further the objectives of the Association through effective coordination and through the formulation of general policies.

13. Council Meetings

- (a) The Council shall meet at the time of a General Assembly.
- (b) The Council may hold extraordinary meetings either in person or electronically, at times other than a General Assembly. Such meetings must be proposed by the Executive Committee.
- (c) The members of the Executive Committee may attend meetings of the Council, with voice but without vote, except for those who are also delegates.

14. Voting in Council

Voting in Council shall follow the following rules:

- (a) An Adhering Body which is not represented at a Council meeting may vote by correspondence on any specific question, provided that the matter has been clearly defined on the final agenda distributed in advance, and that the discussion thereon has not produced any significant new considerations or change in its substance, and that the said vote has been received by the President prior to the voting.
- (b) Quorum in Council meetings is achieved when the number of Council Delegates in attendance is at least one third of the delegates from countries eligible to vote.
- (c) On questions not involving matters of finance, each delegate from an Adhering Body, with its IUGG subscriptions paid up to the end of the calendar year preceding the voting, shall have one vote.
- (d) On questions involving finance, each delegate from an Adhering Body, which has paid its IUGG subscriptions up to the end of the calendar year preceding the voting, shall have the right to vote. The number of votes allotted to each delegate of an Adhering Body shall then be equal to the number of its category of membership, as defined by IUGG.
- (e) Before a vote in a Council meeting, the President shall decide whether or not the matter under consideration is financial in character and whether the procedure of voting by correspondence applies.
- (f) The Council may also deliberate and decide matters at other times by correspondence and/or email ballot, provided that the issues were communicated to Council members at least one month in advance of the voting date.
- (g) Decisions of the Council shall be taken by a simple majority, except as otherwise specified in these Statutes. If a tie should occur in a Council vote, the President shall cast the decisive vote. This procedure also applies if the vote is taken by mail ballot. Simple and two-thirds majorities are determined by the proportion of affirmative votes to the sum of all votes (affirmative, negative and abstention). Blank and invalid ballots and votes not cast by delegates present are counted as abstentions.
- (h) Except as otherwise provided in the Statutes or Bylaws, meetings of the Council, as well as those of other IAG administrative bodies, shall be conducted according to the edition of Robert's Rules of Order currently recommended by the IUGG.

15. Decision of Council

- (a) Decisions of the Council shall be reported to the individual membership in a meeting of the IAG General Assembly.
- (b) If the majority of those present at this meeting disagree with the decisions of the Council, the Council shall reconsider the question, and make a decision, which shall be final.

16. Changes to Statutes and Bylaws

Changes in the Statutes and Bylaws shall be made as follows:

- (a) If deemed necessary, the Association may review the Statutes and Bylaws in each period, to ensure an up-to-date structure of its scientific and administrative organization. A Review Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee to

achieve this goal. Proposals for a change of any article of these Statutes and Bylaws must reach the Secretary General at least two months before the announced date of the Council meeting at which it is to be considered. The Secretary General shall notify all Adhering Bodies of any proposed change at least one month before the announced date of the Council meeting.

- (b) The Statutes may not be modified except by the approval of a two-thirds majority of votes cast at a Council meeting, and shall come into force at the close of that meeting.
- (c) The Council shall have the power to adopt Bylaws within the framework of the Statutes.
- (d) The Bylaws may be modified by a simple majority of votes cast at a Council meeting, and shall come into force at the close of the meeting.