

# Statutes and By-Laws

## as proposed for adoption by the IASPEI Association Plenary at Melbourne, July 2011

### Statutes

- [Objects of the Association](#)
- [Members of the Association](#)
- [National Committees](#)
- [Administration of the Association](#)
- [Secretariat](#)
- [Budget and Finance](#)
- [General Meetings of the Association](#)
- [Voting](#)
- [Validity of Statutes](#)
- [Commissions and Working Groups](#)

### By-Laws

- [Resolutions](#)
  - [Nominating](#)
  - [Meetings of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee](#)
  - [Conduct of Meetings](#)
- 

## Statutes

Adopted by the General Assembly of the Association, Grenoble, 1975, and amended by the General Assembly, London, Canada, 1981, and the General Assembly, Melbourne, 2011.

### **I. Objects of the Association**

1. The purpose of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior is:
  - a. To promote the study of problems relating to earthquakes, to the propagation of seismic waves, and to the internal structure, properties and processes of the Earth
  - b. To initiate and co-ordinate the conduct and communication of research which depends on co-operation between different countries
  - c. To facilitate research on theoretical, observational and applied seismology, such as the comparison of instruments used in different countries, the adoption of standards

for observatory practice and data storage, and generally all matters related to seismology

## **II. Members of the Association:**

Each country having adhered to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)

## **III. National Committees**

1. Each National Committee for the IUGG (or national organisation adhering to IUGG) should nominate a section, or sub-committee, for Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior. The functions of this section or sub-committee are to facilitate and co-ordinate in their respective countries the study and practice of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior, in accordance with the objects of the Association. Each National Committee and the Section or Sub-Committee shall be empowered to refer to the Association matters for discussion falling within the competence of the Association.
2. The National Committee (or adhering organization) names in each country a correspondent, whose duty is to provide liaison between the IASPEI executive and the Section in each country.
3. The National Committee, on the recommendation of the Section or Sub-Committee, nominates the delegate or delegates who shall represent it at the General Meeting of the Association. One of these delegates shall be designated as the principal delegate of the country and shall cast the vote of that country whenever a "national vote" is required (refer section VIII.2).
4. Official communications sent by the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior to an adhering country shall be addressed to the IASPEI National Correspondent or, in default, to the National Committee of Geodesy and Geophysics.

## **IV. Administration of the Association**

1. The work of the Association shall be directed by the Association Plenary Meeting of the delegates of the Member countries of IUGG.
2. The Plenary Meeting of the Association shall elect the following: a President, a First and Second Vice-President, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and four additional persons. These, plus the immediate past President shall constitute the voting members of the Executive Committee of the Association.
3. A single person may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, be elected both Secretary General and Treasurer.
4. The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer shall constitute the Bureau of the Association.
5. Elections shall be held at an Association Plenary Meeting held in conjunction with the quadrennial General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

The President may not be re-elected to the same office, and no person may hold any one office for more than twelve consecutive years.

6. The elections of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee are to be decided on the basis of one vote per country represented at the Association Plenary Meeting.
7. Should a vacancy occur among the elected offices, the Bureau shall fill the position provisionally by nomination, and an election shall be held for this office at the next Assembly of the Association.
8. The transfer of duties takes place at the close of the Association Plenary Meeting at which the election occurs. The interval between successive elections (normally 4 years) is called a period.
9. The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, may appoint individuals to committees as may be needed, and may approve the terms of reference of such committees.
10. Urgent matters arising in the interval between Association Assemblies shall be referred by the Bureau to the Executive Committee.
11. The Executive Committee may appoint an Associate Secretary who will be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, but without vote.
12. The Executive Committee may appoint an Association Webmaster who will be responsible for maintaining the website of the Association.

## **V. Secretariat**

A Secretariat placed under the direction of the Secretary General shall conduct the correspondence, preserve the administrative archives, arrange the Scientific Assemblies and other meetings, and ensure the records of the Assemblies and Commission reports are preserved in an accessible web location.

## **VI. Budget and Finance**

1. The financial resources of the Association are derived from:
  - The allocation by the Union;
  - The sales of publications, subscriptions, advertisements, etc.;
  - Grants.
2. The Treasurer shall administer and disburse these resources under the direction of the Executive Committee. The administration of resources shall include the permanent delegation of authority to manage any bank accounts or investments held in the name of the Association.
3. The Treasurer shall alone retain responsibility toward the Association for all banking operations. As a precaution, however, the right to sign as an authorized agent for any

account opened in the name of the Association shall be extended to at least one other Member of the Bureau.

4. The Treasurer shall provide annual financial reports as required by IUGG
5. The Treasurer shall arrange for independent external audit of, and prepare and submit to the Association Plenary, the Accounts of Receipts and Expenditures for the preceding period, together with an estimated budget for the following financial year.
6. An audit committee, authorised by the Plenary Meeting shall examine the accounts prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Plenary Meeting for the preceding period, and give discharge to the Treasurer for those accounts.

## **VII. General Meetings of the Association**

1. Scientific Assemblies of the Association shall be held in conjunction with General Assemblies of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and normally at least once between successive IUGG meetings. At least one Plenary Meeting of the Association shall be held at each Scientific Assembly.
2. In the intervals between the Scientific Assemblies the Association may, either separately or jointly with other Associations, hold or sponsor additional scientific meetings.
3. The Bureau of the Association, on the request of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee may conduct an extraordinary meeting of the National delegates using e-mail or web-based tools, in order to resolve an urgent question. National delegates shall have at least one week notice of any resolution that requires a national vote.
4. The agenda to be transacted at an Association Plenary Meeting held in conjunction with a Scientific Assembly is to be prepared by the Bureau and posted at least two working days before the Plenary Meeting.
5. The agenda may only be modified with the consent of the majority of the votes of the countries represented at the Plenary Meeting.
6. The Executive Committee is responsible for appointing a Local Organising Committee for the Scientific Assemblies conducted between General Assemblies of IUGG.
7. The Scientific Programme for a Scientific Assembly is the responsibility of the Secretary General, who will approve symposia and appoint convenors, in consultation with the Executive and the Commission chairs.
8. Registration and abstract submission to the Scientific Assembly are open to all members of the international scientific community.

## **VIII. Voting**

1. In a Plenary Meeting of the Association, two types of resolution may be put to the meeting:  
A. Procedural, and B. Scientific

2. Elections to office and Procedural resolutions shall be decided on the basis of one vote per country present at the Association Plenary. That vote is to be exercised by the principal delegate of each country (refer paragraph III.2) and is referred to here as a "national vote". In any vote a delegate may represent only one country.
3. A country that is not represented at the Association Plenary Meeting may appoint a proxy, or forward its vote, by notifying the Secretary General in writing before the election.
4. Scientific resolutions shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast by all registered scientists present at the Association Plenary.
5. The Resolutions Committee will decide which category any specific resolution falls into, before it is presented to the Association Plenary. If any national delegate objects to that classification, the delegate may request that a national vote be used to decide which category a specific resolution falls into, before the resolution is voted on.
6. When there is an equal division of votes, the President shall have a deciding vote.

## **IX. Validity of Statutes**

1. These statutes may be revised by a two-thirds majority vote of the member countries represented at an Association Plenary Meeting.
2. The proposed revision must be posted at least one month in advance of the vote.
3. The English text shall be used exclusively in interpreting these statutes.

## **X. Commissions and Working Groups**

1. The Association, on the recommendation of the Executive, may establish Commissions to study scientific topics and to stimulate and coordinate research on specific topics or research related to a specific region.
2. The Association may also establish joint Commissions or Working Groups with other organizations.
3. Commission chairs (or co-chairs) will be nominated by the President.
4. Working Groups may be established or disbanded by the Commission chair, who will appoint the chair of the Working Group.
5. Commission and Working Group members will be invited to participate by the respective chair.
6. Commission or Working Group chairs shall not hold the same office for more than two periods.
7. Commission chairs will provide annual reports to the Secretary General (including reports on their Working Groups) prior to the Annual Bureau Meeting.

8. A Commission may be disbanded by decision of the Executive Committee if in the view of that Committee the Commission is no longer needed.

## **By-Laws**

Adopted by the General Assembly of the Association, Grenoble, 1975 and amended by the General Assembly, London, Canada, 1981, and by the General Assembly, Melbourne, 2011.

The following by-laws are established in order to provide for continuing guidance in conducting the affairs of the Association. The by-laws may be amended by majority decision of the Executive Committee.

## **XI. Definitions**

In the context of the Statutes and By-laws, the term "posted" will be taken to indicate an e-mail sent to a prepared list of the Association National Correspondents. The term "mail" will be taken to include e-mail. The term "period" indicates the period between elections of the Association Officers, normally four years.

## **XII. Resolutions**

1. At least one year before the General Assembly, the President shall appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of one officer of the Association and two other persons.
2. All resolutions to be presented at the Plenary Meeting of the Association must be transmitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee at least two days before the said meeting. It is the responsibility of the Resolutions Committee to word the resolutions consistently with the terminology of the Association and of the Union.
3. The Resolutions Committee shall post all Resolutions at least one day before the Association Plenary Meeting.

## **XIII. Nominations**

1. At least two years before an election, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee whose charge is to bring before the Plenary Meeting of the Association at the quadrennial General Assembly a slate of candidates for election to the Association Offices and the Executive Committee. The candidates for election shall be announced at least 4 days in advance of the Plenary Meeting.
2. The Nominating Committee should keep in mind the need for persons of executive ability, comprehensive scientific interests, and broad geographical representation and should consult, where possible, with former Presidents of the Association.
3. At the Plenary Meeting, additional nominations for each office may be made from the floor.
4. If no-one objects, the election may be conducted by acclamation. Otherwise, the election should be by written ballot, one ballot passed out to the principal delegate of each member

country or to an official proxy.

#### **XIV. Meetings of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee**

1. The Bureau of the Association should meet at least every year. The Executive Committee should meet as often as necessary and at least once during each Association Assembly. If necessary and practicable, such meetings may be held using web-based communications, recognising that face-to-face meetings are preferable for most purposes.
2. The Association will normally cover Bureau travel expenses incurred for such meetings.

#### **XV. Conduct of Meetings**

Except if otherwise provided in the Statutes and By-laws, meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Return to [IASPEI Home Page](#) / [Who We Are and What We Do](#)

Last modified: November 20, 2007

Maintained by: Alice Walker [abw@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:abw@bgs.ac.uk) at the [British Geological Survey](#)