

Resolutions of the 31st General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

Trieste, Italy (online), 14th July 2022

31st IUPAP General Assembly, July 14th, 2022

In accordance with Swiss law, under which IUPAP operates since October 2021, the Union shall hold its General Assemblies on an annual basis. However, only one every three Assemblies will be held in person. The Assembly held on July 14th was, to some extent, hybrid as some delegates were already present in Trieste to celebrate the IUPAP centenary. The next full in-person Assembly is planned to take place in Beijing in 2024. The pandemic has taught all of us how to participate in virtual meetings, so when the President welcomed the delegates, the quorum was confirmed, and the discussions and debates could start without any major technical issues.

General Matters

The minutes from the 2021 General Assembly were approved without remarks.

IUPAP has currently three “offices”: Headquarters in Geneva, an administrative office in Trieste, and its former Headquarter in Singapore—an office that is gradually being wound up. The administrative office, handled by “Fondazione Internazionale Trieste per il Progresso e la Libertà delle Scienze”, is in charge of the secretariat’s work. The finances are currently handled from Geneva and Singapore. The Singapore bank account is expected to be closed and transferred to Geneva by the end of 2022. Reports from all three offices were shared with the delegates during the GA.

The President summarized the outcome of the [Centenary symposium](#), which he considered a magnificent event with excellent scientific exchange and social interactions. He also shared with the Assembly glimpses from the inauguration ceremony of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) that took place in Paris a week earlier. The full programme and a video documenting the event is available from the [IYBSSD website](#).

To rejuvenate the internal structure of IUPAP and to improve the various processes and routines, the President suggested to establish an internal review committee that will report back at the next General Assembly. This task force will be led by the President-Designate Silvina Ponce Dawson.

The President also made a short outline of the closing ceremony for IYBSSD that will take place at CERN, Geneva, on October 6th, 2023. The 2023 General Assembly will be held at the same place on October 9th as a hybrid event. The Assembly will celebrate the 100 years that have passed since [the first IUPAP General Assembly took place in Paris](#). For the occasion, IUPAP will invite other scientific unions to take part.

Henri Abraham Award

The winners of the 2022 Henri Abraham award, given for distinguished long service—more than nine years—to IUPAP, were announced. Following a nomination process, the 2022 prizes were given by the Executive Council to [Judy Franz](#) and [Lev Shchur](#).

Membership matters

Vice-President Nithaya Chetty argued that IUPAP needs to grow the membership further as still many countries are not territorial members of the Union. However, IUPAP must continue nurturing relations with those who are already members. “One to one conversations” are being carried out with liaison committees. Currently IUPAP is at a “steady-state situation”—it seems like that IUPAP cannot achieve more than 65 (+/-5) members within the current framework. Chetty emphasized that IUPAP should not be an “elite club”, so after careful considerations he proposes a new category of membership, Associate Territorial Members. The membership shall not be for free, it will minimum cost 10% of the value of an IUPAP unit. The Vice-President underlined that it is not a discounted membership fee; it is a new category of membership, Associate Territorial Member (ATM), without voting rights and no full members of Commissions. To implement this officially, the IUPAP Articles will need to be amended accordingly. However, Chetty considers that IUPAP already can start reaching out to potential territories before the Articles have been updated. but we do already want to get started now. Following a short discussion the Assembly took note and the Executive Council will follow up.

Proposal of a possible new working group

Vice-President Nithaya Chetty suggested to establish a working group to identify, grow, and stimulate the green economy. The composition of the group should be high-profile colleagues—based on an open call for nominations. The role of the group shall be to advice the Executive Council and possibly organize a major conference on physics and the green economy. The proposal was well received and will be followed up by the Executive Council.

IUPAP activity report for the period 23 October 2021 to 13 July 2022

Secretary-General Jens Vigen presented [the activity report](#) since the last General Assembly. The delegates had a few comments that subsequently were integrated in the report.

Revised strategic and action plan

President-Designate Silvina Ponce Dawson presented [the document](#) of which the Assembly took note.

Financial matters

Treasurer Boris Sharkov gave a report on the 2021 final position, the approved budget for 2022 and indications for 2023–24. During the pandemic the expenses have been reduced, while the Centenary Symposium and related celebrations will cause additional expenses in 2022 and 2023. However, integrated over the full cycle, ending in 2024, the situation is stable. The administrative office in Trieste will run a campaign until the end of 2022 to secure outstanding membership dues.

Resolutions of the 31st IUPAP General Assembly

The 31st IUPAP General Assembly was presented with a series of resolutions that were all approved—some with minor modifications:

- Resolution 1. [Ratification of decisions made by Council](#)
 - a) [IUPAP Statement on the events occurring in Ukraine, 2022-03-01](#)
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 - b) [IUPAP resolution regarding international conferences in this time of crisis](#)
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 - c) [Use of IUPAP affiliation at conferences](#)
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 - d) [Document to be signed to request the use of the IUPAP affiliation](#)
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 - Resolution 2. [Associate Territorial Member in the pre-stage to Membership](#)
 - Resolved with small modifications.
 - Resolution 3. Membership and members
 - a) [Incorporation of Ukraine as new Territorial Member of IUPAP](#)
 - Ukraine will have one unit, however the territory is until further notice, not expected to contribute dues to IUPAP.
 - [Memorandum of Understanding between the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine](#)
 - Resolution 4. IUPAP commissions
 - a) [Election of new member for C11](#)
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 - b) [Revised mandate for the Commission on Low Temperature Physics \(C5\)](#)
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 - c) [Establishment of the IUPAP Medal for the Physics of Life \(C6\)](#)
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 - d) [Appointment of associated members to IUPAP commissions](#)
 - Resolved, [all names](#)
 - Resolution 5. IUPAP working groups
 - a) [Dissolution of inactive working groups](#)
 - Resolved, WGs 2, 10 and 12 are dissolved
 - b) [Extension of existing working groups](#)
 - Resolved, all remaining WGs were extended.
 - c) [Chairs of Working Groups 18 and 19](#)
 - Resolved
 - d) [Creation of a working group on open science \(WG20\)](#)
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Closing of the General Assembly

The President closed the Assembly by thanking all delegates for their active participation and concluded that it is very positive for IUPAP to have annual meetings to keep close contacts with all members of the Union.