

33rd IUPAP General Assembly Haikou, China, 10–14 October, 2024 Main outcomes and resolutions.

IUPAP is the only global organization covering all areas of physics. It contributes through physics to general international understanding. Its mission is to assist in the worldwide development of physics, to foster cooperation in physics and to help in the applications of physics towards solving problems of concern to humanity.

The 33rd General Assembly (GA) was special in various ways. It was the first in-person GA in 7 years and the first one held in China. These two features contributed to making this GA an incredible event with lively discussions both on IUPAP matters, on physics, and how our Union and physics can better serve to make our World a better place for all.

The new officers of the Union as well as the new members of IUPAP Commissions were elected for the period 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2027.



The full agenda and all the presentations are available from Indico:
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1369383/> and some photos and videos can be found here:
https://www.pailixiang.com/album_ia7298405443.html.

Day 1

1. The quorum was achieved (80%)

Total number of votes 150 out of which 127 votes registered. Required quorum 100 votes.

2. Adjustment of membership

- a. **Approved:** Change of membership category for South Africa: move from category 3 to 5
- b. **Approved:** Change of membership category for Jordan: move from category 2 to 1
- c. **Approved:** Resumption of membership for Nigeria under specific conditions (Adhering body: Nigerian Institute of Physics) in category 1
- d. **Approved:** New corporate associate member with one unit: CAEN

3. Presentation of slates

Slates were presented for commissions and executive council. Delegations were invited to renominate, if they wished, and to bring it on day 2 before 10:30 am (local time GMT +8)

4. The International Year on Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ2025) and the International Decade on Science for Sustainable Development (IDSSD)

A panel of Commission Chairs moderated by the Chairs of Working Groups 19 and 21 had a very good discussion on how IUPAP could contribute to IYQ2025 and to IDSSD. It was pointed out that these initiatives provide unique opportunities for IUPAP to strengthen its relations with developing countries and to connect to potential new members (territorial, associate, corporate).

5. Kennedy Reed medal

Malik Maaza was awarded the first Kennedy Reed medal. Maaza gave a talk with the title [*Physics multi-disciplinarity: the bridge towards a better society*](#).

Day 2

1. Conference proposals

The conference proposals were approved together with the guidelines given to the organizers. The allocation for type A conferences was slightly augmented at the expense of type B conferences, to reflect the size and the priority of the flagship conferences

2. External evaluation report for a restructuring of IUPAP

The external evaluation report, to adapt IUPAP to new challenges, was presented, much appreciated, and discussed. It was agreed to establish a task force for which an invitation for nominations will be issued shortly. The goal of the task force is to propose concrete actions that will be submitted to the next General Assembly.

3. Membership matters

The presentation gave a general overview of how the Vice President for Membership and Development and the Secretariat deal with all aspects of membership. For the time leading to the Centenary Celebration, it was felt that IUPAP should be lenient in dealing with defaulting members. However, perennially defaulting members were 'given notice' at the 2023 GA to make arrangements to meet their obligations or else they would be formally excluded at the 2024 GA in Haikou, China. Henceforth, it was announced that all countries who had failed to pay in full for the past 6 years would be formally excluded from the Union on the following conditions. The members in question will be informed of their exclusion and the consequences thereof. Their debt will be capped at the equivalent of the 6 year dues of a Category 1 member (CHF 15000 in current terms). IUPAP plans to continue communicating with these members trying to keep them connected to the work of the Union. VP Membership and Development through Membership Committee will continue to engage with them

and develop a plan for resumption of full membership. Hence, the exclusion is some sort of soft exclusion. This approach was confirmed in a Resolution that was subsequently approved.

4. Panel discussion on physics outside academia

Physics outside academia and the importance of attracting Corporate Associates Members to IUPAP were the themes of a panel held . The International Year on Quantum Science and Technology and the International Decade on Science for Sustainable Development can be a way to approach companies and scientific organizations.

5. Re-nominations of slates

At 10:30 am, it was opened for re-nominations of slates for the members of the commissions and the Executive Council. No re-nominations were proposed. The Assembly agreed to bring the slates, as they were, for a formal vote on the third day.

6. Activity report and communication

The activity report was submitted and well received. It contributes to the transparent functioning of IUPAP. Communication is very important for IUPAP and will be given more emphasis and resources.

7. Draft resolutions

The draft resolutions were discussed intensely. It was decided to submit them to vote on the next day.

Day 3

1. Approval of slates

- a. The slates of members of commissions and executive council were approved—all elected for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027. Proposals for associate members to commissions were made and will be considered by the Executive Council shortly after the Assembly, as well as the five commission chairs who will serve on the Executive Council.

The outgoing list of elected members of the Executive Council is shown below together with the elected/re-elected members:

IUPAP Officers, members of C1 (Financial and Policy matters)

President : Michel Spiro (France) M → Silvina Ponce Dawson (Argentina) F
President Designate: Silvina Ponce Dawson (Argentina) F → Sunil Gupta (India) M
Past President: Bruce McKellar (Australia) M → Michel Spiro (France) M
Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs: Jens Vigen (Switzerland) M renewed
Deputy Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs: Florencia Canelli (Switzerland) F
Secretary General for Administrative Affairs: Stefano Fantoni (Italy) M renewed
Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs: Sandro Scandolo (Italy) M renewed
Treasurer: Boris Sharkov (Russia) M renewed
Associate Secretary General: Rudzani Nemutudi (South Africa) M renewed

Vice Presidents at Large with specific responsibilities

Vice President at Large with responsibility for the Centenary Celebrations: Monica Pepe Altarelli (Switzerland) F → Kuijuan Jin (China-Beijing) F Vice President at Large for projects and sponsoring
Vice President at Large with the responsibility for Outreach and Ethics: Laura Greene (United States of America) F renewed
Vice President at Large with the responsibility as Gender Champion: Gillian Butcher

(UK) F renewed with the responsibility for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (in a wide sense)
Vice President at Large with the responsibility for Membership and Development: Nithaya Chetty
(South Africa) → M Irvy (Igle) Gledhill (South Africa) F

2. Vote on resolutions

- a. Approved: [Resolution on IUPAP elections and procedure for handover of responsibilities for EC&CC](#)
- b. Resolutions on Membership and Units, including ratification of decisions made by EC on these matters
 - i. Approved: [Resolution on dues for 2025, 2026 and 2027](#)
 - ii. Approved: [Ratification of decisions made by EC on matters other than Membership and Units](#). These decisions are:
 - [EC resolution on nominations](#)
 - [IUPAP letter of support for the integrity of Argentina's science system](#)
 - IUPAP co-signed with physics societies around the world the statement [Principles and policies for international scientific collaboration](#)
- c. Resolutions regarding modifications to IUPAP's Articles and Internal Regulations
 - i. Approved: [Resolution on modifications to Articles I.7.B and I.7.F of IUPAP](#)
Minor modification to avoid conflicting statements.
 - [Proposed change to Article 7—Executive Council and Officers- with tracked changes](#)
 - ii. Approved: [Resolution to modify Articles II.5.5, II.6.2 and II.6.6 of IUPAP's Internal Regulations](#) (to adapt to the most recent modifications of the Articles of the Union).
- d. Approved with two votes against and three abstentions: [Resolutions regarding Working Groups](#) (decided in view of the internal and external evaluations and the future restructuring of IUPAP).
 - i. Postponed to next General Assembly: [Proposal to establish a Working Group in the Field of Major Neutron Research Facilities](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee).
 - ii. Postponed to next General Assembly: [Proposal to establish a Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning \(AI/ML\) for the Physical Sciences](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee).
- e. Approved: [Resolution on position papers, statements and declarations from the IUPAP Executive Council \(EC\)](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee).
- f. Approved: [Resolutions related to Conferences](#)
- g. Approved: [Specification of Corporate Associate Members rights and number of elected members in the commissions](#)
- h. Expansion of commissions from 14 to 15 members
 - Approved: [Required change in Internal Regulations, Article 5](#)
- i. Approved: [Resolution on IUPAP restructuring](#)
- j. Approved: [Exclusion from the Union](#)

3. Interdisciplinary prize

- a. The IUPAP Interdisciplinary Early Career Prizes for 2022 and 2023 were awarded to Evelyn Tang, Rice University and Stefano Martinian, New York University. Both awardees gave talks on their work.

4. Financial matters

The treasurer presented the auditor report and the accounts for 2023. It was shown that the International year for Basic Sciences and Sustainable Development

(IYBSSD), which was run under the auspices of IUPAP from 2019–2023, was financially neutral for IUPAP. The accounts for 2023 were approved without any particular comments. Furthermore, the treasurer presented the budget for the cycle 2025–2027, based on a 3.2% augmentation of the dues in 2025 and kept flat, but to be compared to the actual inflation in the following two years and reviewed at each General Assembly. We aim for a balanced budget in 2025 and 2026, while 2027 has a budgeted deficit—due to the in-person General Assembly—to be balanced by the excess generated in 2023. IUPAP has a solid financial reserve, which makes the operation of the Union safe in these difficult times and might leave room to increase our support to projects like LAAAMP, SESAME and new initiatives.

5. **Any other business**

The survey initiated by the United States National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Networks relating to visas is important. IUPAP should collect data for all sponsored conferences and take action—in coordination with the International Science Council—vis à vis territories hampering the free circulation of physicists.

6. **Closing ceremony**

An address was delivered by the new president designate Sunil Gupta, followed by the new president Silvina Ponce-Dawson, and finally the new past president Michel Spiro. The Assembly was closed by a thanks (especially to the local organizing committee of the Chinese Physical Society, to the IUPAP secretariat, to Nithaya Chetty for his leadership on membership matters, to Monica Pepe-Altarelli for organizing the IUPAP centenary celebrations with brio, and to Bruce McKellar, Past President for his wisdom and actions during the 10 years period he served as President in all capacities) and finally by a handover ceremony.

Two wonderful side-events were organized: the IUPAP-CPS Women in Physics Forum to celebrate the 25th anniversary of WG5 Women in physics and the Inter-Commission Symposium on Physics Research for a Sustainable Planet (agendas and presentations are on indico!).

On October 11th three lectures by Nobel Laureates Barry Barish, Takaaki Kajita and Samuel Ting were given to an audience of 1800 young physicists, thanks to the Chinese Physical Society.

All venues, receptions and the organization in general were superb and contributed to a successful outcome of a rich, lively and dense General Assembly.