

Statutes of the International Geological Congress

Revised from the Statutes adopted at the 32nd IGC in Florence, August 20, 2004 by an IUGS-IGC Statutes and Bylaws Committee consisting of P. Patrick Leahy (Chair), Arne Bjørlykke (IGC), Jacques Charvet (IUGS), Ian Lambert (IGC), and Eldridge Moores (IUGS). Ratified by Council at the 34th IGC in Brisbane, August 9, 2012.

PREAMBLE

The International Geological Congress (IGC) has, since its beginnings, adhered to rules which were at first adapted from those developed by similar organisations, and later refined to meet its changing needs over the years. Permanent statutes and by-laws were first proposed at the 12th IGC (1913, Toronto) and, at the 13th IGC (1922, Brussels) Statutes which essentially ‘codified tradition’ were adopted. These, with minor modifications, remained in force until the formation of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in 1961 made a major revision necessary. A Committee was appointed at the 22nd IGC (1964, New Delhi) to make recommendations for amending the Statutes. The recommendations were adopted at the 23rd IGC (1968, Prague); but, not surprisingly in view of the major changes which had to be incorporated, when first implemented at the 24th IGC (1972, Montreal), they were found to contain anomalies and uncertainties to the extent that a Commission was appointed to make recommendations for further revisions to the Statutes and its recommended revision was endorsed at the 25th IGC (1976, Sydney).

The IUGS Strategic Plan approved during the 31st IGC (2000, Rio de Janeiro), noted that IGC is the premier forum for presentation of results from IUGS programs and provides a vital venue for IUGS Committees, Commissions, and programs.

In March 2002, following the recommendations of the IUGS Strategic Planning Committee, the IUGS Executive Committee approved a proposal for the merger of the IUGS and IGC Councils. One of the advantages envisaged was a clear and simple representation of the geological world by a unified body. Another advantage was a more effective management of both IUGS and IGC.

During the 32nd IGC (2004, Florence) the merger of the IGC and IUGS Councils and the integration of the IGC and IUGS were approved. The Council and the General Assembly of the IGC ceased to exist after the close of the respective meetings of the Council and General Assembly of the IGC. An ad hoc group was formed after the 32nd IGC to revise and streamline the statutes after the merger of the Councils. This group produced a merged version of the Statutes, which was considered by Council at the 33rd IGC in Oslo, but did not achieve the two-thirds majority required for acceptance.

At the 33rd IGC, the Council instructed the President of IUGS to prepare statutes for both IUGS and IGC, and bylaws for the IUGS. These harmonised statutes and bylaws were developed by an IUGS-IGC Statutes and Bylaws Committee and were ratified by Council at the 34th IGC in Brisbane on August 9, 2012. They were to be crafted in an inter-related fashion so that the synergistic functioning and governance of IGC and IUGS is clearly stated and implemented effectively and efficiently. To comply with this instruction it became necessary to eliminate duplications and to restrict provisions for the IGC in IUGS Statutes

(and vice versa) to a necessary minimum. The IGC statutes focus on the conduct, governance and operation of the IGC. The IUGS has a strong role in IGC activities and its statutes and bylaws are broader but include specific responsibilities relative to the IGC. Cross references are provided to avoid possible misunderstandings.

DEFINITIONS

The terms and organisations referred to in the statutes are defined in the IUGS Statutes or here as follows:

(a) The International Geological Congress (IGC) is the scientific forum of the IUGS and also serves as a scientific forum for other geoscience organisations as appropriate.

(b) A Session of the International Geological Congress (IGC) comprises all elements of a particular Congress, from the beginning of the first until the end of the last excursion.

(c) The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), hereinafter called the Union, is an international scientific, non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit-making organisation.

(d) The IUGS-IGC Council (hereinafter the Council) is the governing body of the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Geological Congress.

(e) The IUGS Executive Committee (EC) comprises the officers of the Union elected by the Council to carry out the administration of the Union from the close of an ordinary Session until the close of the next, under the general direction of the Council.

(f) The IGC Committee (IGCC) is a permanent IUGS-IGC joint Committee of IUGS dealing with IGC matters. It fulfils the functions set out in the Statutes and may be called upon by the Organizing Committee for advice, or to resolve any problem which would normally be referred to the Council but whose resolution could not be deferred without risk to the well-being of the Congress. The IGC Committee reports to the Council.

(g) The IGC Organizing Committee is the body appointed by the appropriate authority in the host country or group of countries for the forthcoming Session of the Congress. It is the legally constituted entity that is incorporated under the jurisdiction of the lead country of the proposed IGC and that has assumed legal and financial responsibility for the forthcoming IGC through agreement with the relevant Adhering Organisation(s). The term of office of an IGC Organizing Committee shall be from the termination of the period of office of its predecessor until the closure of the Session for which it was appointed. The IGC Organizing Committee is defined by the number of the Congress concerned.

(h) The IGC Preparatory Committee is the body appointed by the appropriate authority in the host country or group of countries for the next but one Session of the Congress approved by Council. A Preparatory Committee (identified by the number of the next but one Congress) is replaced by an Organizing committee after completion of the period of office of the previous Organizing Committee.

(i) Appropriate Authority is, in countries or geographically defined areas represented in the Council of IUGS, the Adhering Organisation of IUGS appointed by that country or region. In

other countries it is the national (science) academy or organisation, the national Geological Society, or the Geological Survey.

STATUTES

Aims of the IGC

1. The aims of the IGC are to:
 - contribute, in collaboration with and under sponsorship of the IUGS, to the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the geological sciences,
 - provide a venue for exchanging ideas and information and holding business meetings, and
 - provide the opportunity, by way of geological excursions, to examine geological problems and features in the field.

Relationship of IGC to the IUGS

2. The International Geological Congress is the scientific forum of the Union.
3. The Council is the governing body of the International Geological Congress.
4. The IUGS has its own Statutes and Bylaws, which are in full accordance with the Statutes of the IGC.
5. The Union shall have an income from each IGC, based on an amount and/or percentage negotiated by each IGC Organizing Committee, the IGCC and the IUGS EC. The exact amount and/or percentage must be specified in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which shall be signed by the Legally Constituted Entity of the IGC in question and the President of IUGS on behalf of the Council. This Income, in part, is to be used to support the activities of the IGCC.

Membership in the IGC

6. There is no permanent membership of the IGC. Application for membership in a Session is made to the Secretary General of the IGC Organizing Committee for that Session.
7. No professional title is required to support a request to register.
8. Classes of membership normally are Members, Accompanying Members and Student Members. Fees and privileges of the different classes of members and definition of Student Member are determined by the Organizing Committee of the IGC Session.

Working structure of the IGC

9. The general working structure for an IGC is developed collaboratively by the IGC Organizing Committee, in close cooperation with the IGC Committee.

Powers and functions of the Council.

10. The Council as defined in IUGS Statutes, Article 24, meets and makes decisions relative to the IGC in ordinary sessions normally held every four years during a Session of the International Geological Congress (IGC). The President of the IGC Organising committee, as co-Chair of the IGCC, will chair the Council meeting for agenda items related to IGC.

11. The Council selects the venue of the next and, if it wishes, the next but one IGC with due consideration of the IGCC recommendations, recognizing the continuing global character of the Congresses and a desire for a tangible lasting legacy such as assistance in capacity building in the host country. Ideally, the Council considers a global rotation of venues so that all regions have an opportunity to host an IGC.

12. A quorum of the Council, for matters regarding the IGC, shall be defined on the basis of the number of delegates in attendance from Adhering Organisations. The quorum for matters of the IGC shall consist of fifty percent of the delegates submitted to the Congress.

13. The appropriate organisation of a country or region (recognised by the Executive Committee) not being a member of IUGS may nominate a non-voting observer.

14. In matters related to the IGC, all delegates (defined by IUGS membership category) will be permitted to vote. One delegate from an Adhering Organisation may vote all votes allotted to that Adhering Organisation, or the votes may be distributed among all delegates present from that Adhering Organisation. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of votes. In the event of an equal division of votes, the President of IUGS shall cast the deciding vote (See IUGS Statutes 24(a)).

The International Geologic Congress Committee

15. The IGC Committee is the permanent Committee in IUGS dealing with IGC matters. Members of the IGC Committee must be representatives of dues paying members of IUGS.

16. The IGC Committee consists of the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer of IUGS, and the President and the Secretary General of the ongoing IGC Organizing Committee; the President and Secretary General of the immediate past IGC Session; and the President or Secretary General of the last but one IGC Session.

17. The IGC Committee is co-chaired by the President of the IUGS and by the President of the immediate past Session of the Congress. Either Co-chair will serve as Chair in the event of absence of the other. Either Co-Chair working together, communicates and consults with Council on all matters related to the IGC. Both Co-Chairs are responsible for ensuring communication from Council to the IGC Committee. The President of the immediate past session of the IGC co-chairs the IGCC meetings until the end of the last IGCC meeting prior to the opening of the current IGC. At the end of that IGCC meeting, the President of the immediate past Session of the Congress hands over responsibility to the incoming President. The incoming President opens the IGC and assumes leadership responsibilities.

18. The Council has final approval authority relative to IGC matters.

19. The Co-Chairs of the IGC Committee determine any contentious matter which cannot be resolved by IGCC, and may appoint ad hoc Committees for this purpose. The Co-Chairs also determine a resolution for any dispute concerning the interpretation of these Statutes.

20. The Secretary General of the IGC Committee is the Secretary General of the ongoing IGC Organizing Committee.

21. The IGC Committee ensures that there is a legally constituted entity in the host country or countries for the next Congress. If decided by the IGC Committee and approved by the IUGS Council, an IGC Preparatory Committee for the next but one IGC may be formed as early as eight (8) years prior to the next but one Congress.

22. A quorum of the IGC Committee shall consist of four members. Voting may be made in person, or in writing, including by facsimile or electronic mail. Decisions are made by simple majority of members having voted. In the event of an equal division of votes, the President of the IUGS shall cast the deciding vote.

23. The Co-Chairs of the IGC Committee develop the IGC-related agenda for Council meetings. The Co-Chairs of the IGC Committee may invite the President and the Secretary General of the IGC Preparatory Committee of the next but one IGC to attend IGC Committee meetings as observers.

Congress Sessions

24. The Sessions of the Congress are normally called every fourth year and are open only to members of the Session.

25. The scientific program and business meetings of the Session normally last for 5 to 8 days, during which the Council shall meet.

26. The scientific program of the Session is preceded by the Opening Ceremony and followed by a Closing Ceremony.

27. The affiliated bodies of the IUGS are invited, and other geological organisations may apply, to hold scientific and business meetings as part of the Session, provided that they accept the regulations of the IGC Organizing Committee with regard to registration fees, schedules, publications, and costs.

28. Business meetings are arranged to avoid, so far as is possible, conflict in timing with scientific meetings.

Congress Excursions

29. Each Session includes a number of geological field excursions that are an important feature of the Congress. They normally both precede and follow the scientific program and business meetings.

30. The excursions give members every possible opportunity to study geological features of the country or region in which the Session is being held.

31. Excursions are arranged with due regard to keeping costs to both the participants and host at a reasonable level. They are directed by competent leaders, and the geological features to be visited are described in materials made available to participants. Participants must be registered for the IGC.

Congress Administration

32. The responsibility for administration of the Sessions of the Congress passes from one IGC Organizing Committee to another. The Secretary General of the Session provides the Secretary General of the incoming IGC Organizing Committee for the next Session with all pertinent information and documentation.

33. The permanent interests of the Congress shall be looked after by the IGC Committee in close collaboration with the IGC Organizing Committee.

34. Any country or group of countries wishing to host a Session of the Congress informs the IGC Committee of its proposal. Invitations to hold the next Session are decided by the Council.

35. As soon as practicable after the termination of a Session, the IGC Organizing Committee of the next Session shall make its address known to the geological community.

36. During the Session, the IGC Organizing Committee refers to the Council, through the IGC Committee, any matters requiring discussion other than those directly concerned with the administration of the current Session.

37. The IGC Organizing Committee is, in addition to the foregoing, responsible for:

- (a) Preparing a program for the forthcoming Session of the Congress in collaboration with the IUGS and its affiliated organisations, and publishing and distributing it to members in advance of the scientific and business meetings;
- (b) Organizing excursions;
- (c) Inviting the appropriate authority in each country, through the Secretary General of the IUGS, to nominate Delegates to the Council for IGC matters;
- (d) Inviting Academies, Geological Surveys, International and National Geological Societies, Universities and other appropriate institutions to send representatives to the Session;
- (e) Encouraging participation and collaboration with various geoscience organisations such as the GeoUnions within ICSU;
- (f) Preparing and giving wide distribution to circulars concerning plans for the forthcoming Session and information for prospective members;
- (g) Publishing, in advance of the Session, summaries of papers which have been accepted by the IGC Organizing Committee;
- (h) Promoting publication of presented contributions that are of appropriate scientific standard;
- (i) Preparing and distributing to Members a volume of General Proceedings of the Session as soon as practicable after its conclusion;
- (j) Providing meeting rooms and other facilities for the scientific and business meetings which it has accepted for inclusion in the program;
- (k) Identifying individuals to serve as President and Secretary General for the Session for adoption by the Council; and

(l) Negotiating with the IUGS the amount to be included in the registration fee as an income for the IUGS.

General Provisions

38. The Congress may award prizes for works of merit in the various fields of Geology.

39. Any proposals to modify the Statutes of the Congress must be submitted in writing to the IGC Committee at least 3 months before the beginning of the next Session. After consolidation of the received amendments by the IGC Committee, the final proposal shall be submitted to Council, and to be approved must receive the votes of at least two thirds of the members of Council present and voting, there being a quorum. The English text of the Statutes shall be considered to be the authoritative text for their interpretation.

Entry into force of, and amendments for statutes

40. These statutes and subsequent amendments of them shall come into force at the close of the Session at which they received the approval of the Council.

41. The Council may consider amendments to the IGC statutes provided that proposed amendments have been circulated to members of the Council at least three months in advance.

Dissolution of the Union and future of the IGC

42. If the Council has approved the dissolution of the Union, the IGC Committee (excluding the IUGS President, IUGS Secretary General and IUGS Treasurer) shall request Council to determine the future arrangements for the IGC.