

# INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR SURVEYS AND MAPPING

This amended version of the Statutes was adopted at Washington, D.C., U.S.A., on August 12, 1992

## STATUTES

### Article I - *Definition, Name, and Mission of the Union*

- (a) Surveys and Mapping pertain to the science, art, technology and economic aspects of collection, measurement, processing, analysis, interpretation, portrayal, dissemination, utilization and evaluation of geographically and other spatially referenced data.
- (b) The International Union for Surveys and Mapping (hereinafter referred to as the Union) is a non-governmental body devoted to coordination and cooperation among international organizations concerned with surveys and mapping (hereinafter referred to as the "Organizations").
- (c) The Union subscribes to the 1958 declaration of the 8th General Assembly of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) concerning non-discrimination on the basis of politics, nationality, religion, race, or sex.

### Article II - *Objectives of the Union*

The objectives of the Union are:

- (a) To promote interdisciplinary study of problems relating to surveys and mapping of the Earth and other celestial bodies, their environments and physical objects;
- (b) To initiate, facilitate and coordinate research and investigations of problems in surveys and mapping that require cooperation among the Organizations;
- (c) To provide scientific and technical advice on practical projects in surveys and mapping that require cooperation among the Organizations;
- (d) To participate in any other form of cooperation among the Organizations such as education, training, and technology transfer;
- (e) To provide a broad interdisciplinary basis for discussion and publication of the results of research and projects;
- (f) To arrange scientific and technical meetings among the Organizations and to hold international symposia, conferences, and other meetings to present the results of interdisciplinary activities in surveys and mapping;
- (g) To represent the common interests of the Organizations in international governmental and non-governmental bodies such as the United Nations (UN).

### Article III - *Organization of the Union*

The Union shall be made up of:

- a. Principals
- b. Affiliates
- c. Council
- d. Executive Board

### Article IV - *Membership of the Union*

- (a) Principals shall be international organizations consisting of national societies or organizations representing, in some form, a nation, and which are involved in surveying, mapping or related activities.
- (b) Affiliates shall be recognized international organizations, with an individual membership, not dominated by members from any one country, and which are involved in surveying, mapping or related activities. ("Organizations" refers to both Principals and Affiliates).
- (c) International organizations wishing to be accorded membership in the Union shall submit to the Executive Board an application that includes the Statutes or Constitution, names of affiliated national or member societies, and the financial structure of the organization.
- (d) The Executive Board shall review all applications for membership and recommend them to the Council for approval, or return them to the applicant for additional information, or reject those that are not suitable.
- (e) The Organizations shall retain their individual identities, officers, budgets, and administrative and technical functions as defined in their own Statutes or Constitutions.
- (f) Other international associations involved in surveying and mapping will be accorded observer status on request to the Executive Board.

### Article V - *Council of the Union*

- (a) The Council of the Union shall be composed of the Executive Board, and up to four voting members representing the scientific interests of each of the Principals, and one voting member representing the scientific interests of each of the Affiliates. The Council meetings shall be open.

- (b) Regular meetings of the Council shall be held at least once every three years. The date and place of the meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board. An official meeting of the Council shall consist of at least fifty percent of the voting members.
- (c) The Council shall coordinate the scientific and technical activities among the Organizations.
- (d) The Council, on recommendation by the Executive Board, may establish special honours for persons who have achieved distinction within the disciplines of the Union or who have rendered outstanding service to the Union.
- (e) The Council shall have the power to adopt and change Statutes, By-laws or rules of procedure.
- (f) The Council shall ratify the officers of the Union.

#### **Article VI - Executive Board of the Union**

- (a) The Executive Board shall consist of the Presidents and Secretaries General, or two other designated representatives from each of the Principals, and one representative from each of the Affiliates.
- (b) The Executive Board shall be responsible for the continuing administrative affairs of the Union, and shall make recommendations to the Council on the scientific and technical activities of the Union.
- (c) The Executive Board shall meet at least once each calendar year.

#### **Article VII - Working Groups**

- (a) The Executive Board may establish Working Groups, with the approval of Council, consisting of individuals from the Organizations, to carry out the objectives of the Union. It may initiate and terminate projects in areas of concern to the Organizations. It shall receive and approve reports on the scientific and technical affairs of the Union.

#### **Article VIII - Officers of the Union**

- (a) Officers of the Union shall be:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Executive Secretary
- (b) The President of the Union shall be elected by the Executive Board from amongst its members from Principal Organizations. The President will assume office immediately after the close of the Executive Board at which he/she is elected. The President may not serve for more than four consecutive years. The President is responsible for the overall direction and management of the affairs of the Union. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and of the Council.

- (c) The Vice President of the Union shall be elected by the Executive Board from amongst its members from Principal Organizations. The Vice President shall take the place of the President should the President be unable to act. The President and Vice President may not be from the same Principal. The Vice President may not serve for more than four consecutive years.
- (d) The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Board from nominations submitted by the Principals. The Executive Secretary shall take direction from the Executive Board and shall be responsible for the secretarial and financial management of the affairs of the Union. He/she shall make arrangements for all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Board and shall attend these meetings in an ex-officio status. The Executive Secretary may serve for four years, and for a further four years at the discretion of the Executive Board.

#### **Article IX - Finances of the Union**

- (a) The administrative functions of the Union shall be funded by assessed contributions from the Organizations. The amount of the assessment shall be decided by the Executive Board. The assessment of the Affiliates will be twenty-five per cent of that of the Principals.
- (b) The Executive Board, with the approval of Council, may accept funds or grants for purposes in keeping with its objectives. Such funds shall be used with due regard to the wishes of the donors.
- (c) If an Organization is more than four years in arrears in paying its assessment, the Executive Board at a regular meeting may decide to separate the Organization from the Union. Such an Organization may not apply for readmission to the Union until at least one regular meeting of the Council has intervened.
- (d) Members of the Executive Board shall serve without salary, and their expenses incurred on behalf of the Union will normally be reimbursed by their Organizations.
- (e) The Executive Secretary shall serve without salary, with expenses incurred on behalf of the Union usually funded by the assessed contributions from the Organizations.
- (f) The Executive Secretary shall prepare an annual statement of income and expenses for submission to the Executive Board. The Executive Secretary shall also prepare an annual estimate of the budget. The financial year of the Union shall be the calendar year.
- (g) Activities of the Working Groups shall, in general, be supported by the Organizations involved.
- (h) The Executive Board shall be responsible for the allocation of all funds of the Union. The funds shall be used for:

- (1) Administrative costs of the Executive Secretary and the meetings of the Executive Board and Council;
  - (2) The cost of publications issued by the Union;
  - (3) Subventions toward the expenses of joint activities suggested by the Council and approved by the Executive Board.
- (i) Any Organization that withdraws or is separated from the Union shall have no claim on any of the assets of the Union.
  - (j) In the event of dissolution of the Union, any funds remaining after settlement of liabilities of the Union will be transferred to the Organizations in proportion to their annual assessments.

#### Article X - Voting

- (a) In the event that any Principal is represented by less than fifty per cent of its voting members, Council shall vote by mail ballot. A vote shall be passed by a simple majority of those voting, except for amendments to the Statutes, which shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting.
- (b) To transact business at an Executive Board meeting, the Principals and Affiliates must be informed of the meeting and there must be at least one representative present from each of the Principals. Each participating member of the Executive Board shall have one vote. The Executive Secretary may express opinions on any matter before the Executive Board, but shall not be entitled to vote. A vote shall be passed by the simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President shall decide.

#### Article XI - Meetings of the Union

- (a) Working Groups authorized by the Executive Board may hold business meetings, scientific and technical workshops, conferences, or symposia as needed to execute their charges. No such meeting shall be considered a meeting of the Union unless two or more Organizations are involved.
- (b) Meetings of the Council and the Executive Board shall normally be held in conjunction with events planned by one or more of the Principals.

#### Article XII - General Provisions

- (a) The recommended language of the Union shall be English. Host countries for meetings of the Council, the Executive Board, or other meetings may provide translation into other languages at their own discretion and expense.
- (b) Proposals for amendment of the Statutes may be submitted by any Principal or Affiliate through the Executive Board. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Organizations for comment at least six months before the date of the Council meeting at which they are to be presented for adoption.
- (c) Amendments to the Statutes shall come into force at the conclusion of the Council meeting at which they are adopted.
- (d) The procedures for adopting By-laws are the same as for amendments to the Statutes.



IUSM Officers

left to right:

front row - E. James, FIG; S. Witiuk, SORSA; W. Torge, IAG; IUSM Vice President-K. Torlegård, ISPRS; IUSM President-F. Taylor, ICA; C. Andreasen, IHO; IUSM Executive Secretary-H. O'Donnell  
back row - G. Lindsay, FIG; J. Grelot, ICA; D. Selley, IUSM; L. Fritz, ISPRS; K. Atkinson, ISPRS; I. Katzarsky, ISPRS; S. Murai, ISPRS