

**STATUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY**  
**FOR**  
**PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING**

---

**STATUTE I - Name and Mission**

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (hereinafter referred to as the Society) which was founded in Vienna, Austria in 1910 as 'Internationale Gesellschaft für Photogrammetrie', is a non-governmental international organization, devoted to the development of international cooperation for the advancement of knowledge, research, development, education and training in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, their integration and applications, to contribute to the well-being of humanity and the sustainability of the environment.

**STATUTE II - Definitions**

Photogrammetry is the science and technology of extracting reliable three-dimensional geometric and thematic information, often over time, of objects and scenes from image and range data.

Remote sensing is the science and technology of capturing, processing and analysing imagery, in conjunction with other physical data of the Earth and the planets, from sensors in space, in the air and on the ground.

Spatial Information Science is concerned with the modelling, storage, processing, retrieval, application and communication of information with a spatial reference.

**STATUTE III - Qualifications**

The Society pursues its aims without any discrimination on grounds of politics, nationality, religion, race, or gender.

**STATUTE IV - Activities**

To achieve its aims, the Society shall:

- (a) facilitate excellence in research and development and the proper use of appropriate technology in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, as well as the development of standards;
- (b) initiate and coordinate research in the fields of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences by creating Technical Commissions and Working Groups concerned with pertinent aspects of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences;
- (c) convene international Congresses, symposia and other meetings, with lectures, communications, discussions, and as appropriate, tutorials, exhibitions, technical visits, and social events;
- (d) ensure wide international circulation of the results of research and the records of discussion by the publication of The International Archives and Annals of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences, which shall form the record of Congresses and Symposia, and other scientific meetings of the Society;
- (e) publish and circulate international journals, a bulletin, and other communications relevant to the interest of the Society and the community at large;
- (f) stimulate the formation of national and regional Societies of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences and promote exchanges between such Societies;
- (g) encourage interaction of the Society and its members with the community at large, including the publication and exchange of scientific papers and journals by, and among, its national and regional Societies;
- (h) encourage recognition and administer awards to honor the achievements of individuals or groups.
- (i) represent the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences in relevant international forums;
- (j) promote and facilitate education, training, and technology transfer of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences;
- (k) promote other appropriate actions to enhance the Society's mission.

**STATUTE V - Cooperation with Other International Organizations**

The Society should cooperate with:

- (a) international and regional institutions or organizations concerned with photogrammetry, remote sensing, computer vision, spatial information sciences, land survey, geodesy, cartography, and other relevant disciplines;
- (b) inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations and other relevant, international policy-making organizations.

## **STATUTE VI - *Membership***

The types of membership in the Society are:

- Ordinary Members
- Associate Members
- Regional Members
- Sustaining Members
- Honorary Members
- Fellows
- Individual Members

1. An **Ordinary Member** shall be the single organization of a country, or a geographic region thereof having an independent budget, which should represent the whole community of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information specialists in the country or region.
  - (a) An Ordinary Member shall be responsible to the Society for the proper discharge of all the duties of membership including specifically:
    - participating in the scientific work of the Society, including active participation in Working Groups and Commissions;
    - prompt payment of Membership subscription fee;
    - actively participating in the decisions of the General Assembly;
    - striving to provide equitable national representation for all photogrammetric, remote sensing and spatial information specialists in its country or region;
    - serving as national focal point for distribution of ISPRS information to their members;
    - submitting periodic reports and news for publication in the Society's bulletin;
    - demonstrating active representation of the whole of their membership in their country or region;
    - encouraging interdisciplinary cooperation in scientific and technologic activities, and establishing links with relevant groups;
    - forming journals and registering them with the Secretary General.
  - (b) Normally the Ordinary Member organization of a country shall be a national, formally constituted, representational Society. In the absence of such a Society the Ordinary Member may be:
    - an association of societies each having the advancement of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences among its principal objectives;
    - the principal Scientific Academy of a country or its National Research Council;
    - or failing these, any other institution or association of institutions whether governmental or non-governmental concerned with the sciences of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information.
  - (c) Different categories of Ordinary Members shall be established to reflect the use of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, and the number of specialists in the organization.
2. An **Associate Member** shall be an organization which represents a community of photogrammetrists and/or remote sensing specialists and/or spatial information specialists in a country, and which has a strong interest in participating in the Society's affairs, and which is not represented by the Ordinary Member organization of the country.

An Associate Member shall be responsible to the Society for the proper discharge of all the duties of membership including specifically:

  - participating in the scientific work of the Society, including active participation in Working Groups and Commissions;
  - prompt payment of Membership subscription fee;
  - promoting ISPRS activities;
  - participating in the discussions of the General Assembly;
  - serving as a focal point for distribution of ISPRS information to their members;
  - submitting periodic reports and news for publication in the Society's bulletin;
  - stimulating the establishment of appropriate means of communication.
3. A **Regional Member** shall be a multi-national association of photogrammetry and/or remote sensing and/or spatial information science organizations established for the purpose of considering questions of common interest, promoting regional cooperation, convening regional conferences, etc.
4. **Sustaining Members** contribute to the financial support of the Society and shall be individuals, organizations, institutions, or agencies who provide hardware, software, systems and/or services, in the fields of photogrammetry

and/or remote sensing and/or spatial information, and/or who are engaged in research and/or education and training.

5. **Honorary Members.** In recognition of distinguished services to the ISPRS and its aims, an individual may be elected an Honorary Member of the Society.
6. **Fellows.** In recognition of sustained, excellent service to the ISPRS and its aims, an individual may be elected as a Fellow of the Society.
7. **Individual Members** are persons with a qualification or studying for a qualification in the fields of photogrammetry and/or remote sensing and/or spatial information, who wish to be involved with the activities and mission of the Society.

#### **STATUTE VII - *Organization and Administration***

The direction and management of the Society, including the conduct of its technical and scientific program, shall be undertaken through the following components: the Congress, the General Assembly, the Council, the Financial Commission, the Technical Commissions and the Committees of the Society.

#### **STATUTE VIII - *Officers***

1. The Officers of the Society shall be the President of the Society, the other Members of the Council and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Technical Commissions.
2. The Officers shall serve from the termination of the Congress at which they are elected or appointed until the completion of the next ensuing Congress.

#### **STATUTE IX - *Congress***

1. The Congress shall consist of all photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information specialists in attendance.
2. The Congress shall normally meet every four years.
3. The Congress shall be convened in plenary session at least twice during the course of each Congress.

#### **STATUTE X - *General Assembly***

1. The General Assembly shall be the supreme authority of the Society for all decisions. It shall determine the general policy of the Society.
2. The General Assembly shall consist of the Delegates appointed by the Ordinary Members to represent them, each Ordinary Member being represented by one Delegate.
3. Delegates, Members of Council, Members of the Financial Commission, Honorary Members of the Society, the Regional Representatives, one Representative of the Associate Members, the Regional Members and the Sustaining Members, the Chairpersons of the permanent Committees, and two Advisors per Delegate shall have the right to attend the meetings of the General Assembly.

#### **STATUTE XI - *Council***

1. The Council shall consist of six individuals:
  - The President of the Society
  - The Vice-President
  - The Past President
  - The Secretary General
  - The Treasurer
  - The Director of the Congress
2. The General Assembly may appoint up to three Regional Representatives, from separate regions, to assist Council to coordinate activities in regions not already represented on the Council. The Regional Representatives shall be invited to attend Council Meetings as appropriate.
3. The Council shall conduct the affairs of the Society in the interval between meetings of the General Assembly in accordance with the Statutes and Bylaws and with the decisions and directives of the General Assembly and of Congress.
4. The Council shall be answerable to the General Assembly for management of Society affairs and shall guide the conduct of the General Assembly.
5. The Council shall assist the President to coordinate and guide the activities of the Technical Commissions.
6. Between meetings of the General Assembly the Council may consult Members by correspondence or otherwise.
7. The responsibilities of the members of Council are defined in the Bylaws.

#### **STATUTE XII - *Headquarters***

The headquarters of the Society shall be designated by the Council.

### **STATUTE XIII - *Technical Commissions***

1. The scientific work of the Society shall be the responsibility of its Technical Commissions and shall be guided by Resolutions approved by the General Assembly.
2. Responsibility for the work of each Technical Commission during the interval between two successive Congresses shall be entrusted by the General Assembly to one of the Ordinary Members or to a number of Ordinary Members who have agreed to collaborate.
3. The work of each Commission should be conducted by the Commission Board consisting of:
  - The Commission President
  - The Commission Vice-President
  - The Commission Secretary/ies
  - The Working Group Chairpersons
  - Other officers as appointed

### **STATUTE XIV - *Financial Commission***

1. At each Congress the General Assembly shall elect a Chairperson and two members of a Financial Commission.
2. The role of the Financial Commission shall be advisory and consultative. It shall examine expenditure of all kinds incurred by the Society and suggest to the General Assembly broad lines of financial policy for the Society having regard to its scientific responsibilities.
3. Between Congresses the Financial Commission shall report directly to the Council through the Secretary General at least once a year after the annual balance sheet has been prepared and examined. It shall be present in an advisory capacity at meetings of the General Assembly.

### **STATUTE XV - *Finances***

1. Each Ordinary Member and Associate Member shall pay annually the subscription fee assigned to its category. The amount of subscription fee for each category shall be determined by the General Assembly and may be altered by the General Assembly only at one of its ordinary meetings held during the course of a Congress.
2. Regional Members and Sustaining Members shall pay an annual subscription fee established by Council.
3. The ISPRS Foundation shall be guided by the Society and maintained as an independent entity devoted solely to support philanthropic activities of the Society.

### **STATUTE XVI - *Voting***

1. In plenary sessions of the Congress, decisions shall be taken by a show of hands and by a simple majority of votes passed.
2. Voting in the General Assembly shall be conducted as follows:
  - (a) Only Delegates shall have the right to vote.
  - (b) No Delegate shall represent or vote for any Ordinary Member other than his/her own.
  - (c) Voting shall not be by proxy.
  - (d) If the President or any Delegate so requests, the vote shall be taken by secret ballot.
  - (e) Each Delegate shall have a number of votes equal to the category of the Ordinary Member which he/she represents.
  - (f) The adoption of Resolutions concerning admission of new Ordinary Members, Associate Members or Regional Members, cancellation of membership, alteration to the Statutes or the Bylaws, dissolution of the Society or its amalgamation with another international organization, shall require at least three-quarters of the votes cast to be in favor of the Resolution. Decision on all other matters shall be approved by a simple majority of the votes cast.
  - (g) Associate Members, Regional Members and Sustaining Members shall have observer status in the General Assembly with no voting rights, but with full discussion privileges.
3. Recourse to a vote by correspondence shall only be permitted in exceptional cases. This procedure shall be taken only when the Council considers it necessary to reach a decision without awaiting a meeting of the General Assembly.

### **STATUTE XVII - *Regulations and Directives***

The Council shall be entitled to issue provisional Regulations and Directives to provide guidance in transitory situations, and such shall be valid until considered at the next Congress.

### **STATUTE XVIII - *Languages***

1. The official languages of the Society shall be English, French and German.
2. The English Text of the present Statutes and Bylaws shall be considered to be the definitive version.

### **STATUTE XIX - *Dissolution and Amalgamation***

Only the General Assembly may approve a decision on dissolution of the Society or amalgamation of the Society with another international body. An extraordinary meeting must be specially called for that sole purpose. For such an extraordinary meeting three clear calendar months notice shall be given to all Ordinary Members in writing, requesting them to send Delegates thereto.

### **STATUTE XX - *Amendments to Statutes and Bylaws***

1. Only the General Assembly has authority to amend the Statutes and Bylaws.
2. The Statutes may be amended under the following conditions:
  - (a) An amendment may be formulated in writing by an Ordinary Member and addressed to the Secretary General not less than 10 months prior to the date fixed for the meeting of the General Assembly at which it is to be considered. Such an amendment shall be supported by at least one other Ordinary Member.
  - (b) Amendments may be formulated by the Council or a committee appointed by the Council. In such a case there shall be no necessity for supporting these amendments by an Ordinary Member.
  - (c) The Secretary General shall inform all Ordinary Members on the proposed amendments at least six months prior to the date fixed for the meeting of the General Assembly at which they are to be considered.
3. The Bylaws may be amended under the following conditions:
  - (a) At least 48 hours must be given Delegates prior to discussing amendments to the Society Bylaws.
  - (b) No Bylaw that contravenes the Statutes shall be valid.

Original Statutes adopted by the General Assembly of the 11th Congress, July 1968, at Lausanne, Switzerland.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 12th Congress, August 1972, at Ottawa, Canada.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 14th Congress, July 1980, at Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 15th Congress, June 1984, at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 16th Congress, July 1988, at Kyoto Japan.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 18th Congress, July 1996, at Vienna, Austria.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress, July 2000, at Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress, July 2004, at Istanbul, Turkey.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress, July 2008, at Beijing, China.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress, August 2012, at Melbourne, Australia.

Statutes amended by the General Assembly of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress, July 2016, at Prague, Czech Republic.

Statutes amended by postal vote, October 2019.

President: Christian Heipke (2016-2020)

Secretary General: Lena Halounová (2016-2020)