

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE

98bis, bd Arago
F 75014 Paris, France

REVISION OF STATUTES AND BYE-LAWS
AS PROPOSED TO
THE 25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RATIONALE AND EXPLANATIONS

In addition to the specific comments made in the following, a systematic revision has taken place to obtain a clean separation between the fundamental definitions and the rules governing their interpretation and implementation. The former are placed in the Statutes and will hopefully only be subject to change at long intervals; the latter have been collected in the Bye-Laws.

A. STATUTES

1. The formulation of the Objective of the Union has been cleaned of superfluous repetitions.
2. Our Legal Counsel advises that having Brussels as our legal seat has no practical meaning when the IAU has no activity there: anyone wishing to take court action against the IAU may then pursue any of the Officers in court without regard to this clause. It is noted that ICSU itself has chosen Paris as its legal seat, and that procedures to do so are straightforward and well-defined.
3. The mention of ICSU has been updated to reflect the current context and purpose of our membership.
4. Our Legal Counsel points out that, logically, "Countries" cannot be members of non-governmental organisations and that, when members of intergovernmental organisations, they can only be represented by their constitutionally established governments. The revised formulation is consistent with the way national membership in ICSU is now defined, and implies that "National Members" and "Adhering Organisations" become identical. The term "National Member(s)" has therefore been introduced throughout the text.
5. (previous): the purpose of the category of "affiliated organisations" has never been defined, and no proposal for admission in this category has ever been received. It has therefore been removed.
- 5-8. (new): the description of National Members has been updated to reflect the legal situation described above. Moreover, the category of "Associate Member" is renamed "National Member on an interim basis" to simplify the later description of the rights and duties of National Members.
9. The former rigid rule of automatic loss of National Membership in case of non-payment of dues for 5 years has proved unsuitable in practice, given that the objective is to give maximum assistance to the scientific community in the member countries - especially those in economic difficulties. The revised formulation will give the Executive Committee better chances to negotiate a constructive solution before loss of membership occurs and a new application becomes necessary, with associated embarrassment and loss of time.
10. Definition updated; details moved to the Bye-laws.
11. Definition updated; details moved to the Bye-laws.
12. An explicit definition of the structure of the governing bodies has been provided, as in the ICSU Statutes.
- 13.a. Defines the composition and overall purpose of the General Assembly (GA).
- 13.b. States that the Bye-Laws are decided by the GA (no change).
- 13.c. Defines the status of the Executive Committee (EC; no change).

- 13.d. Defines the composition of the Finance Committee (FC; no change) and introduces the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC). Given the large and cumbersome size of the FC, the latter serves to provide advice and oversight on financial matters on behalf of the National Members between GAs.
- 13.e. Defines the status of the Special Nominating Committee (no change).
- 13.f. defines the composition of the Nominating Committee (NC). Note that, as the present NC has become impracticably large, it no longer has automatic representation of all National members; a membership of 4-6 is envisaged. This revision is in line with the general wish to de-mystify the procedures for obtaining Individual Membership.
14. Collects all matters related to voting at the GA. Note that formal voting is henceforth by National Members only.
 - a. Voting rules on financial matters are unchanged, except that arrears may now be paid up to the date of the GA.
 - b. In all non-financial matters, permanent and interim National Members now have equal rights.
 - c. Voting rules on the Agenda are unchanged.
 - d. Rule on quorum is unchanged.
15. Voting rules are unchanged, but the rule giving the President a casting vote in case of an equal split has been moved from the Bye-Laws to here to collect all voting rules together.
16. Clear procedures for proposing changes in the Statutes and Bye-Laws are now specified.
17. The composition and procedure for election of the Executive Committee are unchanged.
18. The Officers and their charge are now explicitly defined.
19. A more comprehensive definition of the Divisions is introduced.
20. Rules for creating, terminating, and governing divisions are made more explicit.
21. Defines the role of Commissions within Divisions. Note that all Commissions will now belong to a Division.
22. Defines new rules for creating, terminating, and governing Commissions. Note that this is done at the Division level in order to facilitate adaptation of the Commission structure to changing scientific needs. Note also that new Commissions are given an initial lifetime of 6 years, after which they must justify their continued existence.
23. The rules for budget preparation are essentially unchanged, except that the Finance Committee is defined in 13.d.
 - a. The Finance Sub-Committee must now be consulted as part of the budget preparation process before the GA.
 - b. Language tightened, no factual changes.
 - c. The Unit of Contribution is now defined before its use in the following text.
 - d. No factual change.
 - e. No factual change.
 - f. No factual change, but the possible liability of a National Member is more precisely defined.
24. No factual change.
25. Logically, the rules for dissolution of the Union should be the last clause in the Statutes; the rule itself is unchanged. Our Legal Counsel advises that in case of dissolution, a decision must be taken how to dispose of the assets.
26. Unchanged.
27. Unchanged.

B. BYE-LAWS

- 1-3. Actual application procedures for National Membership are now defined.
4. The description of the admission procedures for Individual Members has been simplified and clarified; note that the Nominating Committee is now defined in Statutes 13(f).

Note that, relative to the present Bye-Laws, the category of consultants has been dropped; in recent years, this has become unmanageable to administer, with little factual benefit. It is assumed that the small number of individuals concerned may be accommodated in the regular membership category.

Note also that the reference to Affiliated Organisations has been removed, consistent with the revised Statutes.
5. Updated wording; the minimum lead time for calling a GA has been increased to one year, in line with recent trends.
6. The rules for calling an Extraordinary GA have been made more specific, and more useful.
7. The procedures for submitting matters for decision by the GA have been collected in one place and rationalised.
 - a. Specific procedures for proposing changes to the Statutes or Bye-Laws have been introduced. Note that formal proposals for such changes can now only be made by National Members or by The Executive Committee.
 - b. Specific procedures and timetable for submission and modification of the proposed budget are now defined.
 - c. Proposals affecting the administration of the Union can be made by National Members or by Divisions.
 - d. Scientific matters on which a GA decision is requested can be submitted by National Members, Divisions, or appropriate ICSU committees. Note that voting is now by National Members only.
- 8-10 No changes of substance.
- 11 No changes of substance, but the rules pertaining to each office are now listed separately:
 - a. Succession rules for the President.
 - b. Succession rules for the General Secretary and assistant General Secretary.
 - c. Succession rules for the Vice-Presidents.
 - d. Election procedure (unchanged).
12. Unchanged (but moved up).
13. No change of substance.
14. The EC is now explicitly required to define a set of Working Rules, accessible to the Membership and with a certain minimum content. The latter include criteria for Individual Membership; template Terms of Reference for Commissions (where more latitude is allowed than for Divisions); Financial Rules (which have not existed until now except for the ambiguous Bye-Law 18.a.); and rules for conducting EC business outside the regular, physical meetings.
15. Updated from present art. 17, which deals with representation in ICSU only.
16. Our Legal Counsel advises that such a clause is needed to protect the Officers and EC in any potential court cases.
- 17-20. The outline Terms of Reference for the Divisions as presented here are based on extensive discussions with the current Division Presidents. As the Divisions will form the future scientific backbone of the Union, a substantial degree of uniformity in their governance is desirable.
21. Working Groups have played an important role in the life of the Union, but have so far been defined only in the Working Rules. It is considered proper to define their existence in the Bye-Laws, giving them a specific default lifetime and a "sunset clause" in order to emphasise that they are normally intended to focus on the completion of a specific task.

Defines the composition of the Finance Committee (FC; no change) and introduces the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC). Given the large and cumbersome size of the FC, the latter serves to provide advice and oversight on financial matters on behalf of the National Members between GAs.

Defines the status of the Special Nominating Committee (no change).

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21. Defines the role of Commissions within Divisions. Note that all Commissions will now belong to a Division.
22. Defines new rules for creating, terminating, and governing Commissions. Note that this is done at the Division level in order to facilitate adaptation of the Commission structure to changing scientific needs. Note also that new Commissions are given an initial lifetime of 6 years, after which they must justify their continued existence.
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 - e. No factual change.
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26. Unchanged.
27. Unchanged.

22. The rules for Commission membership have been substantially relaxed in formality to emphasise the intended, more flexible nature of the Commission structure in the future.
23. To promote a continual review and modernisation of the Commission structure, a specific default lifetime for new Commissions and a "sunset clause" have been introduced. Existing Commissions would be treated as new ones, i.e. their continuation after 2009 will require explicit proposals and approval.
24. Commission Working Groups are now defined in a similar manner as for Divisions.
Note that the previous description of the tasks of the (former) "Adhering Bodies" has been removed: the IAU is not in a position to dictate these national organisations what they should do.
25. As now, except that the obsolete "Category VIII½" has been removed.
26. The priorities for spending the Union's income have been updated and reordered.
27. No change of substance
28. The definition of the General Secretary as the legal representative of the Union has been moved here from Statutes 21 and combined with a definition of the corresponding financial responsibility, from present Bye-Law 18.a.
29. Specifies how the General Secretary shall interact with the FSC in all major financial matters.
30. Moved from Bye-Law 18.b.; no change in substance.
31. No change.
32. No change of substance, inasmuch as the procedure for changing the Bye-Laws is already described in Statutes 16 and Bye-Law 7.

Note that, given the clear division between matters of principle and rules for interpretation in the revised Statutes and Bye-Laws, respectively, a single version of the Bye-Laws is considered sufficient, in line with, e.g., ICSU policy.

November 6, 2002

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STATUTES

I. OBJECTIVE

1. The International Astronomical Union (referred to as the Union) is an international non-governmental organisation. Its objective is to promote the science of astronomy in all its aspects.

II. DOMICILE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2. The legal domicile of the Union is Paris.
3. The Union adheres to, and co-operates with the body of international scientific organisations through ICSU: The International Council for Science. It supports and applies the policies on the Freedom, Responsibility, and Ethics in the Conduct of Science defined by ICSU.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE UNION

4. The Union is composed of:
 - a. National Members (adhering organisations)
 - b. Individual Members (adhering persons)

IV. NATIONAL MEMBERS

5. An organisation representing a national professional astronomical community, desiring to promote its participation in international astronomy and supporting the objective of the Union, may adhere to the Union as a National Member. Exceptionally, a National Member may represent the community in the territory of more than one nation, provided that no part of that community is represented by another National Member.
6. An organisation desiring to join the Union as a National Member while developing professional astronomy in the community it represents may do so on an interim basis, on the same conditions as above, for a period of up to nine years. After that time, it will either become a National Member on a permanent basis, or its membership in the Union will terminate.
7. A National Member is admitted to the Union on a permanent or interim basis by the General Assembly. It may resign from the Union by so informing the General Secretary, in writing.
8. A National Member may be either:
 - a. the organisation by which scientists of the corresponding nation or territory adhere to ICSU or;
 - b. an appropriate National Society or Committee for Astronomy, or;
 - c. an appropriate institution of higher learning.
9. The adherence of a National Member is suspended if its dues have not been paid for five years; it resumes, upon the approval of the Executive Committee, when the arrears have been paid. After five

years of suspension of a National Member, the Executive Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to terminate the membership.

10. A National Member is admitted to the Union in one of the categories specified in the Bye-Laws.

V. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

11. A professional scientist who is active in some branch of astronomy may be admitted to the Union by the Executive Committee as an Individual Member. An Individual Member may resign from the Union by so informing the General Secretary, in writing.

VI. GOVERNANCE

12. --The governing bodies of the Union are:

- a. The General Assembly;
- b. The Executive Committee; and
- c. The Officers.

VII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13. The General Assembly consists of the National Members and of Individual Members. The General Assembly determines the overall policy of the Union.
- 13.a. The General Assembly approves the Statutes of the Union, including any changes therein.
- 13.b. The General Assembly approves Bye-Laws specifying the Rules of Procedure to be used in applying the Statutes.
- 13.c. The General Assembly elects an Executive Committee to implement its decisions and to direct the affairs of the Union between successive ordinary meetings of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee reports to the General Assembly.
- 13.d. The General Assembly appoints a Finance Committee, consisting of one representative of each National Member having the right to vote on budgetary matters according to Article 14.a., to advise it on the approval of the budget and accounts of the Union. The General Assembly also appoints a Finance Sub-Committee to advise the Executive Committee on its behalf on budgetary matters between General Assemblies.
- 13.e. The General Assembly appoints a Special Nominating Committee to prepare a suitable slate of candidates for election to the incoming Executive Committee.
- 13.f. The General Assembly appoints a Nominating Committee to advise the Executive Committee on the admission of Individual Members.
14. Voting at the General Assembly is by National Member. Each National Member authorises a representative to vote on its behalf.
- 14.a. On questions involving the budget of the Union, the number of votes for each National Member is one greater than the number of its category, referred to in article 10. National Members with interim status, or which have not paid their dues for years preceding that of the General Assembly, may not participate in the voting.
- 14.b. On questions concerning the administration of the Union, but not involving its budget, each National Member has one vote, under the same condition of payment of dues as in 14.a.
- 14.c. National Members may vote by correspondence on questions concerning the agenda for the General Assembly.
- 14.d. A vote is valid only if at least two thirds of the National Members having the right to vote by virtue of article 14.a. participate in it.
15. The decisions of the General Assembly are taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. However, a decision to change the Statutes can only be taken with the approval of at least two thirds of the votes of all National Members having the right to vote by virtue of article 14.a. Where there is an equal division of votes, the President determines the issue.

16. Changes in the Statutes or Bye-Laws can only be considered by the General Assembly if a specific proposal has been duly submitted to the National Members and placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly by the procedure and deadlines specified in the Bye-Laws.

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. The Executive Committee consists of the President of the Union, the President-Elect, six Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary, and the Assistant General Secretary, elected by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Special Nominating Committee.

IX. OFFICERS

18. The Officers of the Union are the President, the General Secretary, the President-Elect, and the Assistant General Secretary. The Officers decide short-term policy issues within the general policies of the Union as decided by the General Assembly and interpreted by the Executive Committee.

X. SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

19. As an effective means to promote progress in the main areas of astronomy, the scientific work of the Union is structured through its Scientific Divisions. Each Division covers a broad, well-defined area of astronomical science, or deals with international matters of an interdisciplinary nature. As far as practicable, Divisions should include comparable fractions of the Individual Members of the Union.
20. Divisions are created or terminated by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The activities of a Division are organised by an Organising Committee chaired by a Division President. The Division President and a Vice-President are elected by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive Committee, and are ex officio members of the Organising Committee.

XI. SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS

21. Within Divisions, the scientific activities in well-defined disciplines within the subject matter of the Division may be organised through scientific Commissions. In special cases, a Commission may cover a subject common to two or more Divisions and then becomes a Commission of all these Divisions.
22. Commissions are created or terminated by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Organising Committee(s) of the Division(s) desiring to create or terminate them. The activities of a Commission are organised by an Organising Committee chaired by a Commission President. The Commission President and a Vice-President are appointed by the Organising Committee(s) of the corresponding Division(s) upon the proposal of the Organising Committee of the Commission.

XII. BUDGET AND DUES

- 23.a. For each ordinary General Assembly the Executive Committee prepares a budget proposal covering the period to the next ordinary General Assembly, together with the accounts of the Union for the preceding period. It submits these, with the advice of the Finance Sub-Committee, to the Finance Committee for consideration before their submission to the vote of the General Assembly.
- 23.b. The Finance Committee examines the accounts of the Union from the point of view of responsible expenditure within the intent of the previous General Assembly, as interpreted by the Executive Committee. It also considers whether the proposed budget is adequate to implement the policy of the General Assembly. It submits reports on these matters to the General Assembly before its decisions concerning the approval of the accounts and of the budget.
- 23.c. The amount of the unit of contribution is decided by the General Assembly as part of the budget approval process.
- 23.d. Each National Member pays annually a number of units of contribution corresponding to its category. The number of units of contribution for each category shall be specified in the Bye-Laws.
- 23.e. National Members having interim status pay annually one half unit of contribution.
- 23.f. The payment of contributions is the responsibility of the National Members. National Members have no other financial obligations or liabilities towards the Union.

EMERGENCY POWERS

- 24 If, through events outside the control of the Union, circumstances arise in which it is impracticable to comply fully with the provisions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws of the Union, the Executive Committee and Officers, in the order specified below, shall take such actions as they deem necessary for the continued operation of the Union. Such action shall be reported to all National Members as soon as this becomes practicable, until an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly can be convened.

The following is the order of authority: The Executive Committee in meeting or by correspondence; the President of the Union; the General Secretary; or failing the practicability or availability of any of the above, one of the Vice-Presidents.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION

25. A decision to dissolve the Union is only valid if taken by the General Assembly with the approval of three quarters of the National Members having the right to vote by virtue of article 14.a. Such a decision shall specify a procedure for settling any debts and disposing of any assets of the Union.

XV. FINAL CLAUSES

26. These Statutes enter into force on 15 July 2003.
27. The present Statutes are published in French and English versions. In case of doubt, the French version is the only authority.

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BYE-LAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

1. An application for admission to the Union as a National Member shall be submitted to the General Secretary by the proposing organisation at least eighteen months before the next ordinary General Assembly.
2. The Executive Committee shall examine the application and resolve any outstanding issues concerning the nature of the proposed National Member and the category of membership. Subsequently, the Executive Committee shall forward the application to the General Assembly for decision, with its recommendation as to its approval or rejection.
3. The Executive Committee shall examine any proposal by a National Member to change its category of adherence to a more appropriate level. If the Executive Committee is unable to approve the request, either party may refer the matter to the next General Assembly.
4. Individual Members are admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination of a National Member or, if the individual in question is not represented by a National Member, by the President of a Division. The Executive Committee shall publish the criteria and procedures for membership, and shall consult the Nominating Committee before approving applications for admission as Individual Members.

II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5. The ordinary General Assembly meets, as a rule, once every three years. Unless determined by the previous General Assembly, the place and date of the ordinary General Assembly shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and be communicated to the National Members at least one year in advance.
6. The President may summon an extraordinary General Assembly with the consent of the Executive Committee, and must do so at the request of at least one third of the National Members. The date, place, and agenda of business of an extraordinary General Assembly must be communicated to all National Members at least two months before the first day of the Assembly.
7. Matters to be decided upon by the General Assembly shall be submitted for consideration by those concerned as follows, counting from the first day of the General Assembly:
 - 7.a. A motion to amend the Statutes or Bye-Laws may be submitted by a National Member or by the Executive Committee. Any such motion shall be submitted to the General Secretary at least nine months in advance and be forwarded, with the recommendation of the Executive Committee as to its adoption or rejection, to the National Members at least six months in advance.
 - 7.b. The General Secretary shall distribute the budget prepared by the Executive Committee to the National Members at least eight months in advance. Any motion to modify this budget, or any other matters pertaining to it, shall be submitted to the General Secretary at least six months in advance.

Any such motion shall be submitted, with the advice of the Executive Committee as to its adoption or rejection, to the National Members at least four months in advance.

- 7.c. Any motion or proposal concerning the administration of the Union, and not affecting the budget, by a National Member, or by the Organising Committee of a Scientific Division of the Union, shall be placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly, provided it is submitted to the General Secretary, in specific terms, at least six months in advance.
- 7.d. Any motion of a scientific character submitted by a National Member, a Scientific Division of the Union, or by an ICSU Scientific Committee or Programme on which the Union is formally represented, shall be placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly, provided it is submitted to the General Secretary, in specific terms, at least six months in advance.
- 7.e. The complete agenda, including all such motions or proposals, shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and submitted to the National Members at least four months in advance.
8. The President may invite representatives of other organisations, scientists in related fields, and young astronomers to participate in the General Assembly. Subject to the agreement of the Executive Committee, the President may authorise the General Secretary to invite representatives of other organisations, and the National Members or other appropriate IAU bodies to invite scientists in related fields and young astronomers.

SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

9. The Special Nominating Committee consists of the President and past President of the Union, a member proposed by the retiring Executive Committee, and four members selected by the Nominating Committee from among twelve Members proposed by Presidents of Divisions, with due regard to an appropriate distribution over the major branches of astronomy.
 - 9.a. Except for the President and immediate past President, present and former members of the Executive Committee shall not serve on the Special Nominating Committee. No two members of the Special Nominating Committee shall belong to the same country or National Member.

The General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary participate in the work of the Special Nominating Committee in an advisory capacity.
10. The Special Nominating Committee is appointed by the General Assembly, to which it reports directly. It remains in office until the end of the ordinary General Assembly next following that of its appointment, and it may fill any vacancy occurring among its members.

IV. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 11.a. The President of the Union remains in office until the end of the ordinary General Assembly next following that of election. The President-Elect succeeds the President at that moment.
- 11.b. The General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretary remain in office until the end of the ordinary General Assembly next following that of their election. Normally the Assistant General Secretary succeeds the General Secretary, but both officers may be re-elected for another term.
- 11.c. The Vice-Presidents remain in office until the end of the ordinary General Assembly following that of their election. They may be immediately re-elected once to the same office.
- 11.d. The elections take place at the last session of the General Assembly, the names of the candidates proposed having been announced at a previous session.
12. The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy occurring among its members. Any person so appointed remains in office until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly.
13. The past President and General Secretary become advisers to the Executive Committee until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly. They participate in the work of the Executive Committee and attend its meetings without voting rights.
14. The Executive Committee shall formulate Working Rules to clarify the application of the Statutes and Bye-Laws. Such Working Rules shall include the criteria and procedures by which the Executive Committee will review applications for Individual Membership; standard Terms of Reference for the Scientific Commissions of the Union; rules for the administration of the Union's financial affairs by

the General Secretary; and procedures by which the Executive Committee may conduct business by electronic or other means of correspondence. The Working Rules shall be published electronically and in the Transactions of the Union.

15. The Executive Committee appoints the Union's official representatives to other scientific organisations.
16. The Officers and members of the Executive Committee cannot be held individually or personally liable for any legal claims or charges that might be brought against the Union.

V. SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

17. The Divisions of the Union shall pursue the scientific objects of the Union within their respective fields of astronomy. Activities by which they do so include the encouragement and organisation of collective investigations, and the discussion of questions relating to international agreements, cooperation, or standardization.

They shall report to each General Assembly on the work they have accomplished and such new initiatives as they are undertaking

18. Each Scientific Division shall consist of:
 - a. An Organising Committee of 6-12 persons, including the Division President and Vice-President, and a Division Secretary appointed by the Organising Committee from among its members.
 - b. Members of the Union appointed by the Organising Committee in recognition of their special experience and interests. The Committee is responsible for conducting the business of the Division.
19. Normally, the Division President is succeeded by the Vice-President at the end of the General Assembly following their election, but both may be re-elected for a second term. Before each General Assembly, the Organising Committee shall organise an election from among the membership, by electronic or other means suited to the Commission structure of the Division, of a new Organising Committee to take office for the following term. Election procedures should, as far as possible, be similar among the Divisions and require the approval of the Executive Committee.
20. Each Scientific Division may structure its scientific activities by creating a number of Commissions. In order to monitor and further the progress of its field of astronomy, the Division shall consider, before each General Assembly, whether its Commission structure serves its purpose in an optimum manner. It shall subsequently present its proposals for the creation, continuation or discontinuation of Commissions to the Executive Committee for approval.
21. With the approval of the Executive Committee, a Division may appoint Working Groups to study well-defined scientific issues and report to the Division. Unless specifically re-appointed by the same procedure, such Working Groups cease to exist at the next following General Assembly.

VI. SCIENTIFIC COMMISSIONS

22. A Scientific Commission shall consist of:
 - a. a President and an Organising Committee consisting of 4-8 persons elected by the Commission membership, subject to the approval of the Organising Committee of the Division;
 - b. Members of the Union, appointed by the Organising Committee, in recognition of their special experience and interests, subject to confirmation by the Organising Committee of the Division.
23. A Commission is initially created for a period of six years. The parent Division may recommend its continuation for additional periods of three years at a time, if sufficient justification for its continued activity is presented to the Division and the Executive Committee. The activities of a Commission is governed by Terms of Reference, which are based on a standard model published by the Executive Committee and are approved by the Division.
24. With the approval of the Division, a Commission may appoint Working Groups to study well-defined scientific issues and report to the Commission. Unless specifically re-appointed by the same procedure, such Working Groups cease to exist at the next following General Assembly.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

25. Each National Member pays annually to the Union a number of units of contribution corresponding to its category as specified below; National Members with interim status pay annually one half unit of contribution:

Categories as defined in article 10 of the Statutes

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X |
|---|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 27 | 35 | 45 |

Number of units of contribution

If further Categories of Adherence are required in the future, the step in the number of units shall be 10 units/category.

26. The income of the Union is to be devoted to its objects, including:
- the promotion of scientific initiatives requiring international co-operation;
 - the promotion of the education and development of astronomy world-wide;
- 26.c. the costs of the publications and administration of the Union.
27. Funds derived from donations are reserved for use in accordance with the instructions of the donor(s).
28. The General Secretary is the legal representative of the Union. The General Secretary is responsible to the Executive Committee for not incurring expenditure in excess of the amount specified in the budget as approved by the General Assembly.
29. The General Secretary shall consult with the Finance Sub-Committee (Statutes 13d) in preparing the accounts and budget proposals of the Union, and on any other matters of major importance for the financial health of the Union. The comments and advice of the Finance Sub-Committee shall be made available to the Officers and Executive Committee as specified in the Working Rules.
30. An Administrative office, under the direction of the General Secretary, conducts the correspondence, administers the funds, and preserves the archives of the Union.
31. The Union has copyright to all materials printed in its publications, unless otherwise arranged.

VIII. FINAL CLAUSES

32. These Bye-Laws enter into force on 15 July, 2003.