

# INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

## STATUTES

### I. OBJECTS OF THE UNION

1. The purpose of the Union is:
  - (i) to facilitate the relations between astronomers of different countries where international co-operation is necessary or useful;
  - (ii) to promote the study of astronomy in all its departments.
2. The Union adheres to the International Council of Scientific Unions.

### II. ADHERENCE OF COUNTRIES

3. A country which adheres to the International Council of Scientific Unions may adhere to the Union (*a*) by the organization through which it adheres to the International Council, or (*b*) by a National Committee of Astronomy formed by or recognized by such organization.

A country not adhering to the International Council may adhere to the Union by a National Committee of Astronomy recognized by the Executive Committee of the Union.

The term 'country' is to be understood as including Dominions, diplomatic Protectorates, and any dependency in which independent astronomical activity has been developed.

### III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. The work of the Union shall be directed by the General Assembly.
5. On scientific matters each delegate present shall have one vote.

In questions of administrative, or of mixed administrative and scientific character, not involving questions of finance, voting shall be by countries, each country having one vote, with the provision that its subscription shall have been paid up to the end of the year preceding the voting.

In questions involving finance, voting shall be by countries, with the same provision as for administrative questions. The number of votes for each country shall be one greater than the number of its category of membership (as defined in article IV, 9).
6. No delegate shall represent more than two countries. An adhering country not represented by a delegate may forward by post its vote on any specific question of the agenda.
7. The General Assembly may draw up by-laws governing all matters not provided for in the Statutes of Convention.

### IV. FINANCE

8. The Executive Committee shall prepare an estimate of the budget for each of the years intervening between two General Assemblies. A Finance Committee nominated for the purpose by the General Assembly shall examine this estimate together with the accounts for the preceding years. This Committee shall submit separate reports on the estimates and accounts to the General Assembly, and the General Assembly, having considered these reports, shall fix the unit of contribution for the succeeding period, such unit not to exceed 600 gold francs.
9. There shall be eight categories of membership of the Union, numbered 1 to 8. Each adhering country shall pay annually a number of units of subscription equal to the number of its category of membership. A country offering to adhere to the Union shall specify in which category it proposes to be classed. The offer to adhere may be refused

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by the Executive Committee if the proposed category is judged to be manifestly inadequate. In each country the organization adhering to the Union shall be responsible for the payment of the contribution.

### V. REVISION OF STATUTES

10. The present Statutes shall come into force as soon as adopted by the General Assembly and remain in force until the 31st December 1958: they may then be continued for a further period of 12 years unless the adhering countries decide to the contrary.

11. No change shall be made in these Statutes except with the approval of two-thirds of the votes of the adhering countries.

12. The French text of these Statutes (of which the above is a translation) shall be considered to be the authoritative text.

## BY-LAWS

### I. MEMBERS OF THE UNION

1. The Union shall be composed of members appointed by the Executive Committee on the basis of their achievement in some branch of astronomy. Proposals for membership are submitted by adhering organizations. In addition, Standing Committees may propose co-optation of scientists from countries which do not adhere to the Union. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee to advise in matters concerning changes in membership. This Nominating Committee will consist of one representative of each adhering country, proposed by the adhering organization.

The list of members shall be published by the General Secretary after each ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

### II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. The members of the Union shall, as a rule, meet in ordinary General Assembly once every three years. The date and place of the meeting, unless determined by the General Assembly at its previous meeting, shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and communicated at least six months beforehand to the adhering organizations and National Committees.

3. For special reasons the President of the Union, with the consent of the Executive Committee, may summon an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly. He must do so at the request of one-third of the votes of the countries adhering to the Union.

4. The agenda of business to be transacted at a meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to the adhering organizations and National Committees at least four months before the first day of the meeting. No question which has not been placed on the agenda shall be discussed, unless a proposal to that effect be approved by one-half of the votes of the countries represented at the General Assembly.

5. Any motion to be submitted to the General Assembly must be received by the General Secretary at least five months before the beginning of the General Assembly. Any such motion submitted by an adhering organization, by a National Committee of Astronomy, by a Standing Committee of the Union or by a Joint Commission, affiliated to the Union, must be put on the agenda.

6. The President of the Union may invite any scientific men to attend a meeting of the General Assembly. Such invited guests may take part in the discussions, but shall have no power of voting.

7. In cases of doubt as to whether a vote is of an administrative or scientific character the Chairman of the meeting shall decide.

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8. When there is an equal division of votes the Chairman shall in all cases have a second or casting vote.

9. The General Assembly shall appoint the two delegates to represent it on the International Council of Scientific Unions.

### III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10. The Executive Committee of the Union shall consist of a President, not more than six Vice-Presidents, and a General Secretary, who shall be elected by the General Assembly.

11. The President shall retire at the end of the ordinary General Assembly following that of his election: the Vice-Presidents and General Secretary shall hold office until the end of the second ordinary General Assembly following that of their election. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall not be immediately eligible for re-election. The election of their successors shall take place at the last session, the names of candidates proposed having been announced at the preceding session. The retiring President and General Secretary shall remain members of the Executive Committee in a consultative capacity until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly following their retirement.

12. In case of any vacancy occurring among its members, the Executive Committee shall have power to fill up such vacancy. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly, which shall then proceed to an election for the remainder of the normal tenure of the member who is being replaced.

13. There shall be an Administrative Office, which, under the direction of the General Secretary, shall conduct the correspondence, preserve the archives, prepare and issue the publications sanctioned by the Union and administer its funds.

### IV. STANDING COMMITTEES

14. The General Assembly shall appoint Standing Committees for the study of special branches of Astronomy, the encouragement of collective investigations, and the discussion of questions relating to international agreements or to standardization.

The Standing Committees shall present reports of their work to the Union.

15. The President and the members of each Committee are elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Executive Committee of the Union from among members of the Union. They hold office until the end of the next ordinary General Assembly, and are re-eligible.

When a Standing Committee is composed of members appointed partly by the Astronomical Union and partly by some other Union connected with the International Council of Scientific Unions, it shall have the power to elect its own President.

Standing Committees shall draw up their own by-laws. They may co-opt other members by a majority of two-thirds. If such co-opted members are not members of countries adhering to the Union they shall take part in the discussions of the Standing Committee and of the General Assembly but shall have no power of voting.

16. With the sanction of the Executive Committee, a Standing Committee may issue its publications independently. A Standing Committee may entrust any part of its work to any institution or to individuals.

17. Votes taken in the Committees shall be counted individually and not by countries.

### V. NATIONAL COMMITTEES

18. The functions of the National Committees shall be to promote and co-ordinate in their respective countries the study of the various branches of Astronomy, more especially in relation to their international requirements. They shall be entitled to submit to the Executive Committee motions for discussion by the General Assembly.

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### VI. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCE

19. The income of the Union is to be devoted to:

- (i) costs of publication and expenses of administration;
- (ii) the promotion of astronomical enterprises requiring international co-operation;
- (iii) the contribution due from the Union to the International Council of Scientific Unions.

20. Funds derived from donations shall be used by the Union in accordance with the wishes expressed by the donors.

21. If any country withdraws from the Union it resigns at the same time its rights to a share in the assets of the Union.

### VII. PUBLICATIONS

22. The Transactions of the Union shall be circulated free of cost:

- (i) to members of the Union;
- (ii) to observatories on a list approved by the Executive Committee;
- (iii) to adhering organizations and National Committees.

23. The Executive Committee decides how the distribution of other publications will be arranged.

24. Members of the Union may purchase the publications at reduced prices.

### VII. REVISION OF BY-LAWS

25. No change may be made in the by-laws except with the approval of two-thirds of the votes of the adhering countries represented at the General Assembly.