

**STATUTES OF THE CONGRESS APPROVED BY THE IGC COUNCIL AND
THE IGC GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 32ND IGC**

Preamble

The International Geological Congress (IGC) has, since its beginnings, adhered to rules which were at first adapted from those developed by similar organizations, and later refined to meet its changing needs over the years.

Permanent statutes and by-laws were first proposed in 1913 and, in 1922, 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 modification necessary. A committee was appointed at the 22nd Session (1964) to make recommendations for amending the Statutes. The recommendations were adopted at the 23rd Session; but, not surprisingly in view of the major changes which had to be incorporated, when first implemented at the 24th Session they were found to contain anomalies and uncertainties to the extent that a Commission was appointed in Montreal to make recommendations for further revisions to the Statutes.

This Commission included officers of IUGS as well as those of several Sessions of the Congress. The recommended revision was widely promulgated before the 25th Session, and was there adopted and put into practice. More recently, in the light of perceived ambiguities, further minor modifications have been incorporated. These Statutes differ extensively in format from those they replace, but in content still serve to codify tradition and respond to perceived needs. They also more clearly define the relationship with IUGS, and are consistent with its Statutes agreed to by its Council in 1980.

The Strategic Plan of IUGS, approved during the 31st IGC in Rio de Janeiro in the year 2000, 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.

One of the envisaged advantages should be a clear and simple representation of the geological world by a unified body. Another advantage will be a more effective management of both IUGS and IGC. The matter was discussed by the IGC Steering Committee in Florence in October 2002. It was decided to ask immediately by mail the IGC member countries (national bodies that can be identified) about their feeling on the recommendations for the integration of IUGS and IGC.

These new Statutes take into account some of the IUGS proposals, the suggestions of the IGC Steering Committee and the responses received from the National Committees. The Statutes of the IGC entered into force immediately after adoption by the Council and the General Assembly of the IGC and the Council of IUGS 20

August 2004 in Florence, Italy. 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.

Definitions

Appropriate Authority (5.5.3) is, in countries represented in the Council of IUGS, the Adhering Organization of IUGS appointed by that country. In other countries it is the national (science) academy, the national Geological Society, or the Geological Survey, preferably if recognized by the International Council for Science (ICSU).

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.

The term of office of an Organizing Committee shall be from the termination of the period of office of its predecessor until one year after the closure of the Session for which it was appointed.

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, if decided by the Council eight years in advance of the Session.

It shall become the Organizing Committee after the termination of the period of office of the previous Organizing Committee.

ARTICLES

A Session of the Congress lasts from the beginning of the first excursion until the end of the last one.

The IGC Committee fulfils the functions set out in many different parts of the Statutes. In addition, it 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.

1. Aims

1.1. The aims of the IGC are:

1.1.1. to contribute, in collaboration with and under sponsorship of the IUGS, to the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the geological sciences.

1.1.2. to provide a venue for geologists to exchange ideas and information.

1.1.3. to provide the opportunity, by way of geological excursions, to examine geological problems and features in the field.

2. Membership

2.1. There is no permanent membership of the IGC. Application for membership of a Session is made to the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee for that Session.

2.2. No professional title is required to support a request to register.

2.3. 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 Session.

3. Sessions

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

3.2. The scientific program and business meetings of the Session normally last for 7 to 10 days, during which the Council shall meet.

3.3. The scientific program of the Session is preceded by the Opening Ceremony and followed by a Closing Ceremony, the first of which is opened by the President of the previous Session, or the President's representative, who resigns the Chair and announces the appointment of the President of the current Session.

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

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

4. Excursions

4.1. 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.

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

4.3. 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 guidebooks made available to participants.

5. Administration

5.1. The responsibility for administration of the Sessions of the Congress passes from one Organizing Committee to another. The Secretary General of the Session provides the Secretary General of the incoming Organizing Committee for the next Session with all pertinent information and documentation. The permanent interests of the Congress shall be looked after by the IGC Committee in close collaboration with the incoming Organizing Committee.

5.2. 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.

5.2.1. If a given invitation is considered adequate and desirable, Council may consider the possibility of deciding a venue as early as 8 years in advance of the Congress date.

5.2.2. A regional rotation system, with an agreed ordered sequence of continents, shall be implemented in order to ensure the global character of the Congress.

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

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

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

5.5.1. preparing a program for the forthcoming Session of the Congress in collaboration with the IUGS and its affiliated organizations, and publishing and distributing it to members in advance of the scientific and business meetings.

5.5.2. organizing excursions as defined in Article 4.

5.5.3. inviting the appropriate authority in each country to nominate Delegates to the Council.

5.5.4. inviting Academies, Geological Surveys, International and National Geological Societies, Universities and other appropriate institutions to send representatives to the Session.

5.5.5. preparing and giving wide distribution to circulars concerning plans for the forthcoming Session and information for prospective members.

5.5.6. publishing, in advance of the Session, summaries of papers which have been accepted by the Organizing Committee.

5.5.7. promoting publication of presented contributions that are of appropriate scientific standard.

5.5.8. preparing and distributing to Members a volume of General Proceedings of the Session as soon as practicable after its conclusion.

5.5.9. providing meeting rooms and other facilities for the scientific and business meetings which it has accepted for inclusion in the program.

5.5.10. introducing its nominees for President and Secretary General for the Session for adoption by the Council.

5.5.11. negotiating with the IUGS the amount to be included in the registration fee as an income for the IUGS.

5.6. The IGC Committee consists of:

(a) the President and the Secretary General of the ongoing Organizing Committee;

(b) the President of the immediate past Session;

(c) the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer of IUGS;

(d) the Secretaries General of the three immediate past Sessions. As observers may be invited the President and the Secretary General of the Preparatory Committee of an eventual next but one IGC and up to three congress organizing experts.

5.6.1. The IGC Committee is co-chaired by the President of IUGS and by the President of the immediate past Session or their representatives.

5.6.2. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of five members. Voting may be made in person, or in writing, including by fax or electronic mail. Decisions are made by simple majority of members having voted.

5.6.3. The IGC Committee draws up the agenda for the Council meetings regarding IGC matters.

5.6.4. The IGC Committee also determines any contentious matter which cannot be resolved by Council, and may appoint ad hoc committees for this purpose; it further determines any dispute concerning the interpretation of these Statutes.

5.7. The Council for matters regarding the IGC includes:

(a) all the members of the IGC Committee;

(b) delegates of all countries represented at the Session, the number of Delegates from each country corresponding to the category of its membership of IUGS, but countries which are not members of IUGS may accredit one Delegate;

(c) other members of the Executive Committee of IUGS;

(d) other members of the Session as Council decides to co-opt. For matters regarding the IGC the Council holds office for the duration of the Session.

5.7.1. All Members of the Council must be participants at the Session, and all Members of the Council may take part in discussions and vote, on matters regarding the IGC, at Council meetings. One delegate from a country may vote all votes allotted to that country, or the votes may be distributed among all delegates present from that country.

5.7.2. A quorum of the Council, for matters regarding the IGC, shall consist of fifty percent of the member countries which submit delegates to the Congress.

5.8. Congress policy is discussed by the IGC Committee and by the Council.

6. General Provisions

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

6.2. Any proposals to modify the Statutes of the Congress must be submitted in writing to the IGC Committee at least 9 months before the beginning of the next Session.

6.2.1. Such proposals shall be transmitted by the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee of the current Session to the IUGS adhering organizations and the National Contacts for the Congress.

6.2.2 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.

6.3 The English text of the Statutes shall be considered to be the authoritative text for their interpretation.

