

Minutes of the IUPAP General Assembly

In person meeting run from Haikou, China 10th October 2024 to 14th October 2024 (10th October, registration only and 14th October, free activities)

Relevant documents used during the GA and references to registered sessions can be found on the link on Indico:

<https://indico.global/event/7208/>

Participants

Michel Spiro - President

Jens Vigen - Secretary General for Financial and Legal Affairs

Silvina Ponce Dawson - President-Designate

Rudzani Nemutudi - Associate Secretary General

Gabriella Marra – Secretary

Stefano Fantoni – Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

Ariella Kranjec – FIT Secretary

Sandro Scandolo - Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

Boris Sharkov – Treasurer

Monica Pepe – Altarelli – Vice President at Large (Centenary)

Gillian Butcher - Vice-President at Large (Gender Champion)

Nithaya Chetty - Vice-President at Large (Membership)

Irvy (Igle) Gledhill - Past Chair, IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics

Laura H. Greene - Vice-President at Large (Outreach and Ethics)

Sunil Gupta – former chair C4, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India.

Lucilla de Arcangelis - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C3 Chair

Takaaki Kajita - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C4 Chair

Naoto Nagaosa - C5 Chair

Masaki Sasai - C6 Chair

Young Dong Kim - C8 Chair/ Liaison Chair Korean Physical Society

Kai Liu - C9 Chair

Florencia Canelli - C11 Chair

Kuijuan Jin - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C13 Chair

Tetyana Antimirova - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C14 Chair

Rosario Gonzalez-Ferez - C15 Chair

Jaewook Ahn – C15 Secretary

Sylvie Jacquemont - C16 Chair

Roberto Pini - C17 Chair

Roberto Lalli - AC6

Nilofaar Jokar - AC5 / President IAPS

Cyrus Pan Walther - WG16 Vice President

Luis Vina - Liaison Chair Spain

Eva Lindroth – Liaison Chair Sweden

Yuan-Hann Chan – Liaison Chair for The Physical Society located in Taipei

Mei-Yin Chou - C20 Chair

Madan Rehani - AC4 – IOMP Past President

Pavel Exner - Liaison Chair Czech Republic

Robert Sporcken – Liaison Chair Belgium

Feras Afaneh, Liaison Chair Jordan

Li Lu, Liaison Chair for the Chinese Physical Society China, Beijing

Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop –Australia

Rodrigo Capaz – Liaison Chair Brazil

Alexander Petrov – Liaison Chair Bulgaria

Dominic Hurley – Liaison Chair United Kingdom and Ireland

Christoph Rossel –WG16 Chair

Ahmadou Wague – Liaison Chair Senegal
Akihide Fujisawa – Liaison Chair Japan
Ana Ferreras – Liaison Chair United States of America
Ana Maria Cetto – Chair WG 18
Amy Flatten – APS
Andre Staudte – Canada
Bernhard Nunner – Liaison Chair Germany
Daniel Price – Australia
Hans Peter Beck – Liaison Chair Switzerland
Jin Hee Yoon – C12 member
Joachim Burgdoerfer – Liaison Chair Austria
Karin Zach – European Physical Society
Keun-Young Kim – Korea
Marco Kirm – Liaison Chair Estonia
Miroslaw Karpierz – Liaison Chair Poland
Mitko Gaidarov – C12
Mohamed Abdel Harith – Liaison Chair Egypt
Natalia Istomina – Liaison Chair Russian Federation
Omar Osenda – Liaison Chair Argentina
Pedro Abreu – Representing Portugal
Pietro Ubertini – Chair Commission C19
Prabal Maiti – Liaison Chair India
Prajval Shastri – WG5
Lilia Meza Montes – Chair WG5
Oliver Stelzer-Chilton – Liaison Chair Canada
Rudolph Erasmus – South Africa
Raffaella Calarco - Italy
Sandor Katz – Liaison Chair Hungary
Sekazi Mtingwa – International Science Council
Shahin Rouhani – Liaison Chair Iran
Shohini Ghose – Chair WG19
Simon Granville – Liaison Chair New Zealand
Stephan Fauve – Liaison Chair France
Wonhee Lee - Korea
Xiaoyan Shen – Chinese Physical Society
Yunsang Lee - Korea
Zhengguo Zhao – Chinese Physical Society

Friday, 11 October 2024

1. Welcome by IUPAP President Michel Spiro and CPS Secretary General Zhong Fang

The Assembly was welcomed by Michel Spiro and Zhong Fang, who stressed the importance of international cooperation and the significance of holding the General Assembly in Haikou.

2. Verification of Quorum

The quorum of the General Assembly consists of sufficient Members to produce two thirds of all votes available to Members — hence, the quorum was reached.

Jens Vigen confirmed that 127 votes were registered out of 150 total. The quorum was achieved and the Assembly was declared validly constituted.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of the 32nd GA

The agenda for the 33rd GA was formally adopted, and the minutes of the previous Assembly were approved without amendments.

4. Membership Adjustments and New Quorum

Membership adjustments were approved:

- a. Approved: Change of membership category for South Africa: move from category 3 to 5
- b. Approved: Change of membership category for Jordan: move from category 2 to 1
- c. Approved: Resumption of membership for Nigeria under specific conditions (Adhering body: Nigerian Institute of Physics) in category 1
- d. Approved: New corporate associate member with one unit: CAEN

5. Presidential Address

President Michel Spiro gave introductory remarks, recalling IUPAP's mission and emphasizing inclusivity, sustainability, and scientific cooperation as guiding principles. He noted with sorrow the recent passing of Professor Guang-Zhao Zhou, former IUPAP Vice President, and Academician Alexander Petrov, Chair of the Bulgarian Liaison Committee. Their contributions to science and to IUPAP were warmly remembered, and condolences were conveyed on behalf of the Union.

On a more positive note, he shared uplifting news within the community: congratulations were extended to Kuijuan Jin on her election to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

6. Presentation of Slates for Commissions and Executive Council

Silvina Ponce Dawson presented the proposed slates for Commissions and the Executive Council, outlining process, criteria, and recommendations. Delegations were invited to renominate, if they wished, and to bring it on day 2 before 10:30 am (local time GMT +8).

7. Reports from the Secretariats and Swiss IUPAP Association

An update for Secretariats (Singapore and Trieste) and the Swiss IUPAP Association was given.

- Singapore Office: The office has been closed, though the bank account remains open with a small balance to cover closure fees; pending tax assessments from IRAS were noted.
- Geneva Association: Acts as IUPAP's legal and financial hub; tax-exempt status must be renewed in 2025.
- Trieste Office: Presented by Stefano Fantoni, highlighting the role of FIT and staff (Gabriella Marra – IUPAP secretariat, Francesca Zavino – IUPAP Communication, Ariella Kranjec – FIT secretariat). The MoU with FIT should be renewed before its expiry in 2026.

8. Questions to a panel of commission chairs

A panel of Commission Chairs moderated by the Chairs of Working Groups 19 and 21 had a very good discussion on how IUPAP could contribute to the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ2025), the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (IDSSD 2024–2033), and their interconnections. It was pointed out that these initiatives provide unique opportunities for IUPAP to strengthen its relations with developing countries and to connect to potential new members (territorial, associate, corporate).

9. Presentation of the IUPAP Kennedy Reed Medal for outstanding contributions to the enhancement of physics in developing countries.

Commission C13 Chair Kuijuan Jin introduced the 2024 Kennedy Reed Medal laureate. Professor Malik Maaza was awarded for his outstanding contributions to African physics. He gave a talk Malik Maaza was awarded the first Kennedy Reed medal. Maaza gave a talk with the title Physics multi-disciplinarity: the bridge towards a better society. For details: [Kennedy Reed Medal Presentation](#)

End of meetings for the day

Women in Physics Forum – 25th Anniversary of WG5

The afternoon celebrated the 25th anniversary of WG5. Historical reflections were provided by Beverly Hartline, Jackie Beamon-Kiene, Ling-An Wu, and Marcia Barbosa.

Additional presentations included a report on women in physics in China by Kuijuan Jin; regional activities by Irvy Gledhill (Africa), Lilia Meza-Montes (LAC), and Prajval Shastri (Asia); future directions for WG5 and IUPAP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies by Gillian Butcher.

The session closed with remarks by Silvina Ponce Dawson.

Public Lectures by Nobel Laureates

Three Public lectures were given to an audience of 1800 young physicists by Nobel laureates Barry Barish (gravitational waves), Takaaki Kajita (neutrinos), and Samuel Ting (November Revolution in particle physics) thanks to the Chinese Physical Society. Link to Photos here: [Photo Album](#)

Saturday, 12 October 2024

1. Welcome back

Opening of the second day of the GA with a brief welcome to delegates and confirmation of the day's programme.

2. Conferences approved for 2025

An overview of IUPAP-sponsored conferences scheduled for 2025 was presented, outlining scientific scope, host institutions, and expected community impact.

The conference proposals were approved together with the guidelines given to the organizers. The allocation for type A conferences was slightly augmented at the expense of type B conferences, to reflect the size and the priority of the flagship conferences.

Type A conferences will receive a contribution of 12000 CHF, Type B 6000 CHF, Type D 7250 CHF.

Presentation and list of approved conferences for sponsorship and endorsement here:

<https://indico.global/event/7208/contributions/67020/attachments/32390/60102/2025%20IUPAP-Conferences%20Approved%20-%202024%20C&CC&GA.pdf>

3. IUPAP Membership

The presentation gave a general overview of how the Vice President for Membership and Development and the Secretariat deal with all aspects of membership. For the time leading to the Centenary Celebration, it was felt that IUPAP should be lenient in dealing with defaulting members. However, perennially defaulting members were 'given notice' at the 2023 GA to make arrangements to meet their obligations or else they would be formally excluded at the 2024 GA in Haikou, China. Henceforth, it was announced that all countries who had failed to pay in full for the past 6 years would be formally excluded from the Union on the following conditions. The members in question will be informed of their exclusion and the consequences thereof.

Their debt will be capped at the equivalent of the 6 year dues of a Category 1 member (CHF 15000 in current terms). IUPAP plans to continue communicating with these members trying to keep them connected to the work of the Union. VP Membership and Development through Membership Committee will continue to engage with them and develop a plan for resumption of full membership. Hence, the exclusion is some sort of soft exclusion. This approach was confirmed in a Resolution that was subsequently approved.

Explained the admission of the new Corporate Associate Member: CAEN with one unit and the resolution on the membership adjustments approved.

4. External evaluation report for restructuring of IUPAP

The external evaluation report was presented and discussed by Silvina Ponce Dawson and Atlas Varsted, covering aims, methodology, initial findings, and next steps towards a more effective organizational structure, especially to improve communication tools and activities. The Assembly acknowledged the need to align governance and operations with evolving scientific and societal priorities.

The suggestion and decision to use the term Rejuvenation instead of Restructuring was accepted.

It was agreed to establish a task force for which an invitation for nominations will be issued shortly. The goal of the task force is to propose concrete actions that will be submitted to the next General Assembly.

5. Panel discussion – Physics outside academia

Physics outside academia and the importance of attracting Corporate Associates Members to IUPAP were the themes of the panel. The International Year on Quantum Science and Technology and the International Decade on Science for Sustainable Development can be a way to approach companies and scientific organizations.

Panelists Cyrus Walther, Stefano Fantoni, Sunil Gupta and Prof. Young Dong Kim discussed career pathways and collaborations between academia, industry, and public institutions, highlighting technology transfer and skills development.

6. Re-nominations to the slate of Commissions and Executive Council members.

The process and deadline for submitting re-nominations were recalled, ensuring openness and transparency in the composition of governance bodies so At 10:30 am, it was opened for re-nominations of slates for the members of the commissions and the Executive Council. No re-nominations were proposed. The Assembly agreed to bring the slates, as they were, for a formal vote on the third day.

7. Activity report, Communication

Jens Vigen illustrated the Activity report and Sandro Scandolo gave updates on outreach, communication tools, and community engagement, with a discussion on coordinated messaging and visibility of IUPAP initiatives. There is the need to give more emphasis and resources to communication.

8. Introduction of proposed resolutions (including EC recommendations)

The set of proposed resolutions was presented, covering statutes and bylaws, elections and handover procedures, corporate associate member rights, conferences, position papers, working groups (Neutron Facilities; AI), commission expansion, exclusion policy, and restructuring. It was decided to submit them to vote on the next day. See all details here: <https://indico.global/event/7208/#31-introduction-of-proposed-re>

End of meetings for the day

Inter-Commission Symposium – Physics research for a sustainable planet.

The Inter-Commission Symposium on Physics Research for a Sustainable Planet was coordinated by Prof. Irvy Gledhill and held at the Convention Center, with the proceedings also transmitted online via YouTube and KouShare.

The session opened with welcoming remarks from Prof. Xiaoyan Shen (Director of International Collaboration for the Chinese Physical Society) and Michel Spiro, who explained the intention of the symposium. This was followed by Pietro Ubertini (Chair of C19) and Nithaya Chetty (Chair of WG21), who introduced the scope of the event and the key themes

that would guide the discussions.

The first major contribution was given by Dr. Michel Spiro, presenting the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD 2024–2033). His address highlighted the global framework in which physics must contribute to long-term sustainability efforts.

A keynote lecture on Physics for a Sustainable Planet was delivered by Nobel Laureate Prof. Giorgio Parisi (Sapienza University of Rome). His talk stressed the role of fundamental physics in understanding complex systems and addressing pressing environmental challenges. A short Q&A moderated by Michel Spiro allowed participants to reflect on Parisi's insights.

The symposium then turned to climate change and geohazards. Prof. Ines Camilloni (Vice-Chair, IPCC Working Group I) spoke on the short- and long-term evolution of the climate, providing a scientific basis for urgent mitigation strategies. This was followed by Prof. Gad El-Qadi (National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, Egypt), who discussed geohazard monitoring, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic activity, stressing the need for international collaboration in risk assessment and response.

The focus then shifted to energy for the future. Prof. Jiangang Li (Vice President of CPS and Chief Scientist of EAST) presented advances in Chinese magnetic confinement fusion research, highlighting its potential as a clean and sustainable energy source. Complementing this, Prof. Jon Samseth (Chair of SCOPE) explored alternative sustainable options such as solar energy, hydrogen, and green fuels, underlining the importance of diversified energy strategies.

The final session addressed new technologies and materials for future development. Prof. Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop (University of Queensland) delivered a thought-provoking lecture on whether sustainable development might be a contradiction in terms, focusing on the complexities and opportunities of the global energy transition.

The symposium thus offered a comprehensive and interdisciplinary exploration of how physics can contribute to sustainability, bringing together perspectives on climate, energy, technology, and global cooperation.

All details can be found on the agenda on Indico.

Sunday, 13 October 2024

1. Elections of members of the commissions and members of the Executive Council

Elections were conducted for Commission members and for the Executive Council, following the procedures presented earlier in the Assembly.

The slates of members of commissions and executive council were approved—all elected for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027. Proposals for associate members to commissions were made and will be considered by the Executive Council shortly after the Assembly, as well as the five commission chairs who will serve on the Executive Council. The outgoing list of elected members of the Executive Council is shown below together with the elected/re-elected members:

IUPAP Officers, members of C1 (Financial and Policy matters)

President: Michel Spiro (France) M → Silvina Ponce Dawson (Argentina) F

President Designate: Silvina Ponce Dawson (Argentina) F → Sunil Gupta (India) M

Past President: Bruce McKellar (Australia) M → Michel Spiro (France) M

Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs: Jens Vigen (Switzerland) M renewed

Deputy Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs: Florencia Canelli (Switzerland) F

Secretary General for Administrative Affairs: Stefano Fantoni (Italy) M renewed

Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs: Sandro Scandolo (Italy) M renewed

Treasurer: Boris Sharkov (Russia) M renewed

Associate Secretary General: Rudzani Nemetudi (South Africa) M renewed

Vice Presidents at Large with specific responsibilities

Vice President at Large with responsibility for the Centenary Celebrations: Monica

Pepe Altarelli (Switzerland) F → Kuijuan Jin (China-Beijing) F Vice President at Large for projects and sponsoring

Vice President at Large with the responsibility for Outreach and Ethics: Laura Greene (United States of America) F renewed

Vice President at Large with the responsibility as Gender Champion: Gillian Butcher (UK) F renewed with the responsibility for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (in a wide sense)

Vice President at Large with the responsibility for Membership and Development: Nithaya Chetty (South Africa) → M Irvy (Igle) Gledhill (South Africa) F

2. Varia

The Assembly discussed matters related to ISC, SESAME, LAAAMP, Equity Diversity and Inclusion with Gillian Butcher, the IDSSD 2024–2033 and Earth–Humanity Coalition with Michel Spiro, as well as surveys and freedom of movement issues.

The survey initiated by the United States National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Networks relating to visas is important. IUPAP should collect data for all sponsored conferences and act—in coordination with the International Science Council—vis à vis territories hampering the free circulation of physicists.

3. Presentation of the IUPAP Interdisciplinary Prize and talks by the awardees

[YouTube recording](#)

Talks by the prize awardees for 2022 and 2023 were delivered, showcasing cross-disciplinary research and its impact on the broader physics community. The IUPAP Interdisciplinary Early Career Prizes were awarded to Evelyn Tang, Rice University and Stefano Martinian, New York University.

- Evelyn Tang presentation: [Topology protects long cycles in stochastic systems](#)
- Stefano Martiniani: [Play. Pause. Rewind. Measuring local entropy production and extractable work in active matter](#)

4. Financial matters

The treasurer presented the auditor report and the accounts for 2023.

It was shown that the International year for Basic Sciences and Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), which was run under the auspices of IUPAP from 2019–2023, was financially neutral for IUPAP. The accounts for 2023 were approved without any particular comments. Furthermore, the treasurer presented the budget for the cycle 2025–2027, based on a 3.2% augmentation of the dues in 2025 and kept flat, but to be compared to the actual inflation in the following two years and reviewed at each General Assembly. We aim for a balanced budget in 2025 and 2026, while 2027 has a budgeted deficit—due to the in-person General Assembly—to be balanced by the excess generated in 2023.

IUPAP has a solid financial reserve, which makes the operation of the Union safe in these difficult times and might leave room to increase our support to projects like LAAAMP, SESAME and new initiatives.

Proposed the resolution to set at 2580 CHF per unit for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

5. Votes on Resolutions

The Assembly voted the following resolutions:

- [Resolution on IUPAP elections and procedure for handover of responsibilities for EC&CC](#) Approved.
- [Resolutions on Membership and Units, including ratification of decisions made by EC on these matters](#). Approved.
 - [Resolution on dues for 2025, 2026 and 2027](#) Approved.
 - [Ratification of decisions made by EC on matters different from Membership and Units](#)
 - [EC resolution on nominations](#) (resolved electronically first week of March 2024)
 - [IUPAP letter of support for the integrity of Argentina's science system](#)
 - IUPAP co-signed with physics societies around the world the statement [Principles and policies for international scientific collaboration](#)
- Resolutions regarding modifications to IUPAP's Articles and Internal Regulations
 - [Resolution on modifications to Articles I.7.B and I.7.F of IUPAP](#) Minor modification to avoid conflicting statements. Approved.
 - [Proposed change to Article 7—Executive Council and Officers-](#) with tracked changes
 - [Resolution to modify Articles II.5.5, II.6.2 and II.6.6 of IUPAP's Internal Regulations](#) (to adapt to the most recent modifications of the Articles of the Union). Approved.

Approved with two votes against and three abstentions:

- [Resolutions regarding Working Groups](#) (decided in view of the internal and external evaluations and the future restructuring of IUPAP).
 - [Proposal to establish a Working Group in the Field of Major Neutron Research Facilities](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee). Postponed to the next General Assembly.

- [Proposal to establish a Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning \(AI/ML\) for the Physical Sciences](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee). Postponed to the next General Assembly.
- [Resolution on position papers, statements and declarations from the IUPAP Executive Council \(EC\)](#) (submitted by the US Liaison Committee). Approved.
- [Resolutions related to Conferences](#) Approved.
- [Specification of Corporate Associate Members rights and number of elected members in the commissions](#) Approved.
- Expansion of commissions from 14 to 15 members
 - [Required change in Internal Regulations, Article 5](#) Approved.
- [Resolution on IUPAP restructuring](#) Approved.
- [Exclusion from the Union](#) Approved.

6. Introduction of the President Designate and Closing

An address was delivered by the new president designate Sunil Gupta, followed by the new president Silvina Ponce-Dawson, and finally the new past president Michel Spiro. The Assembly was closed by a thanks (especially to the local organizing committee of the Chinese Physical Society, to the IUPAP secretariat, to Nithaya Chetty for his leadership on membership matters, to Monica Pepe-Altarelli for organizing the IUPAP centenary celebrations with brio, and to Bruce McKellar, Past President for his wisdom and actions during the 13 years period he served as President in all capacities) and finally the assembly concluded with an handover ceremony.

Monday, 14 October 2024

Excursions

A programme of excursions was offered to delegates and accompanying persons. No formal business discussion was scheduled for this day.

Thanks to the Chinese Physical Society.

All venues, receptions and the organization in general were superb and contributed to a successful outcome of a rich, lively and dense General Assembly.