

Minutes of the IUPAP EC&CC Meeting

meeting via Zoom, October 28th, 29th and 30th 2025

Documents available on the indico page <https://indico.global/event/15318/>

Participants

Silvina Ponce Dawson (President)
Sunil Gupta (President-Designate)
Michel Spiro (Past President)
Floencia Canelli (Deputy Secretary General)
Stefano Fantoni (Secretary General for Administrative Affairs)
Sandro Scandolo (Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs)
Rudzani Nemutudi (Associate Secretary General)
Boris Sharkov (Treasurer)
Gillian Butcher (Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
Irvy (Igle) Gledhill (Vice President for Membership and Development)
Kuijuan Jin (Vice President for Projects and Sponsoring)
Laura Greene (Vice President for Ethics)
Christophe Rossel (Chair, WG16)
Patricia Bassereau (Chair, C6 – Biological Physics)
Ralph Richard Engel (Chair, C4 – Astroparticle Physics)
Ursel Edith Fantz (Chair, C16 – Plasma Physics)
Marcelo Gameiro Munhoz (Chair, C11 – Particles and Fields)
Maria Jose Garcia Borge (Chair, C12 – Nuclear Physics)
Richard Haley (Chair, C5 – Low Temperature Physics)
Janos Kertész (Chair, C3 – Statistical Physics)
Roberto Lalli (Chair, AC6 – History and Philosophy of Physics)
Cather Simpson (Chair, C17 – Laser Physics and Photonics)
Jaewook Ahn (Chair, C15 – Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics)
Alfonso Muñoz Gonzalez (Chair, C20 – Computational Physics)
Shobhana Narasimhan (Chair, C10 – Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter)
Joseph Niemela (Chair, C13 – Physics for Development)
Gloria Platero (Chair, C8 – Semiconductors)
Manjula Sharma (Chair, C14 – Physics Education)
Daniel Varela Magalhães (Chair, C2 – Symbols, Units, Nomenclature, Atomic Masses and Fundamental Constants)
Simone Warzel (Chair, C18 – Mathematical Physics)
Shinji Yuasa (Chair, C9 – Magnetism)
Shuang-Nan Zhang (Chair, C19 – Astrophysics)
Kathy Lüdge (Vice-Chair, C17 – Laser Physics and Photonics)
Leonor Andrade (President, AC5 – International Association of Physics Students)
Eric Rosas (President, AC1 – International Commission for Optics)
Dorte Hammershøi (President, AC3 – International Commission for Acoustics)
Jorge Arenas (President, AC4 – International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine)

Madan Rehani (Representative, AC4 – International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine)
Alex Hansen, Chair WG20
Gabriella Marra (IUPAP Secretariat)

DAY 1 – 28 October 2025

- Welcome by the Presidency, Introduction of Participants and Adoption of the Agenda.

President Silvina Ponce Dawson opened the meeting, welcoming participants on behalf of the Presidency.

Executive Council members, Commission Chairs, Working Group Chairs, Affiliated Commission representatives, observers and Secretariat staff introduced themselves.

It was noted that part of the Executive Council was gathered in person at ICTP, Trieste, while most participants joined remotely from different regions of the world.

The agenda was adopted without modifications.

- Report on the Trieste Office

Stefano Fantoni presented the report on the activities of the Trieste Office and the Fondazione Internazionale Trieste (FIT).

Key points included:

- FIT celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2025, continuing its mission of promoting science for peaceful purposes.
- The Foundation maintains close links with the institutions of the Trieste scientific system.
- The current MoU between FIT and IUPAP, signed in 2021 and extended until 2026, continues to provide the framework for the Secretariat's activities.
- The Trieste Office team dedicated to IUPAP includes Stefano Fantoni, Sandro Scandolo, Gabriella Marra, Francesca Zavino and is supported also by the work of Ariella Kranjec, FIT secretary.
- Additional activities highlighted included:
 - Public outreach initiatives addressing public perceptions of quantum science.
 - Engagement with industry, venture capital and policymakers on future quantum technologies and workforce needs.

Actions

Continue discussions on renewal of the FIT–IUPAP MoU beyond 2026.

- Report on the Association in Geneva

Michel Spiro reported on the status of the Geneva Association.

Key points included:

- The Association continues to function effectively and benefits from professional legal and administrative support in Switzerland.

- The current five-year tax-exempt status, granted in 2021, expires at the end of 2025. An application for renewal has already been submitted. There was confidence that renewal would be granted because the Association operates for public benefit and carries out no commercial activities.
- The Association's accounting and auditing services are currently provided by Moore Stephens Refidar SA, which has performed satisfactorily.

Decisions

- Support was expressed for continuing the tax-exemption renewal process.
- The Officers recommended maintaining Moore Stephens Refidar SA as auditor and accountant.

Actions

Continue monitoring the tax-exemption application process.

4. Minutes of the previous EC&CC meeting, "to do list" and matters arising

Minutes of the previous EC&CC meeting were approved.

Progress on actions agreed at the January 2025 EC&CC meeting have been reviewed.

- Visibility of IUPAP

A presentation package and short promotional video had been prepared for use at IUPAP-sponsored conferences. Commission Chairs were encouraged to ensure that organizers make use of these materials.

- Early Career Scientist Prizes

The need to increase visibility of ECSP calls was reiterated. Commission Chairs were encouraged to promote nominations more actively. It was suggested that future conference communication packages should include ECSP promotional material.

- Frontiers in Physics Collaboration

The pilot collaboration between IUPAP and Frontiers in Physics was reviewed. Three C12 Nuclear Physics ECSP recipients had been invited to submit mini-review articles free of charge. Progress was reported on the preparation of these articles. The collaboration was considered successful and suitable for future expansion.

- Associated Commission Members

The incorporation of additional Associated Members to Commissions was confirmed, including representatives from IUPAC and Pakistan.

- 2027 GA and ICP

The process leading to the selection of South Africa as host of the 2027 General Assembly and International Conference on Physics was reviewed. Four proposals had been received and evaluated through a structured process involving the Executive Council.

- Membership Committee

The newly established Membership Committee had begun its activities.

- LAAAMP Development

Progress was reported on expanding partnerships, including the incorporation of IUPAB and discussions with IUPAC.

- Rejuvenation Task Force

Significant progress had been made and a dedicated discussion was scheduled later in the meeting.

- IYQ2025 Activities

Two major IUPAP-led initiatives were highlighted:

- the IUPAP/UNESCO Colloquia Series;
- the IUPAP/IYQ2025 Photo Contest.

- Visa Issues and ISC Engagement

Reviewed the letter prepared jointly by international scientific unions regarding visa access for scientists. More than twenty international unions had signed the initiative.

- IDSSD Activities

Progress was reported on interdisciplinary collaborations within ISC and on plans for future inter-union colloquia and reports related to sustainability challenges.

- Quantum Science and Technology

Following the resignation of the WG19 Chair, Jaewook Ahn had coordinated a broad consultation involving several Commissions. The resulting report supporting the creation of a Commission on Quantum Technologies was acknowledged as a significant achievement.

- Scientific Migration Statement

The attendants discussed a declaration on scientific migration in times of crisis originating from a session held during StatPhys29 in Florence. Members were invited to review the statement ahead of a later decision on possible IUPAP endorsement.

- IYQ2025 Closing Ceremony in Ghana

The invitation for IUPAP to participate in the IYQ2025 Closing Ceremony in Accra was reviewed. Possible exhibition activities were discussed, including displaying material from the IUPAP/IYQ2025 Photo Contest. It was noted that the scientific program would take place mainly on 10 February 2026.

Decisions

- Continue use of conference promotional material and video.
- Continue development of the Frontiers in Physics partnership.
- Proceed with preparations for participation in the IYQ2025 Closing Ceremony.
- Continue work towards establishment of a Commission on Quantum Technologies.

Actions

- Commission Chairs to promote ECSP nominations.
- Review the Scientific Migration Statement before a later vote.
- Further planning for the IYQ2025 Closing Ceremony and legacy activities.

5. Decisions Made by Council Since the 33rd General Assembly

Silvina presented the decisions taken by Council since the 33rd General Assembly that required ratification by the 34th GA, as well as decisions that had already entered into force and only required reporting to the membership.

The GA would approve the proposed resolutions:

- The replacement of Ajith Kumar B.P. by Ambarish Kunwar (India) as a regular member of C13 (Physics for Development).
- The renaming of the positions of Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs and Deputy Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs to Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, together with the associated amendments to the Articles and Internal Regulations.
- The incorporation of SKAO as a Corporate Associate Member with one unit.
- Changes in C3 (Statistical Physics), including the resignation of Chao Tang, the appointment of Limei Xu as a regular member and Erika Eiser as Secretary of the Commission.

The Council also reviewed decisions that did not require explicit GA approval, including:

- Renaming the C4 prize as the IUPAP–TIFR–Locus Homi Bhabha Prize.
- Signing the Nobel Laureate Assembly Declaration for the Prevention of Nuclear War.
- Selecting South Africa as host of the 2027 General Assembly and International Conference on Physics.
- Various appointments to Commissions, Working Groups and external representative positions.

6. Membership Issues

Igle Gledhill, Vice president for membership and Development, presented membership-related matters, focusing primarily on Corporate Associate Memberships.

The Council reviewed the successful incorporation of:

SKAO (Square Kilometre Array Observatory) as a Corporate Associate Member with one unit.
IIM, whose application was being submitted for approval by the General Assembly.

The discussion also broadened to membership development activities and the importance of strengthening engagement with scientific institutions, research infrastructures and industrial partners. All participants emphasized that Corporate Associate Membership should be viewed not only as a source of financial support but also as a mechanism for building stronger links between physics, technology, industry and society.

Decisions

- Support for recommending IIM's admission as a Corporate Associate Member to the General Assembly.

- Continued encouragement of Corporate Associate Membership expansion.

Membership Development and Regional Initiatives

The Council reviewed initiatives aimed at expanding IUPAP's global reach and strengthening participation from underrepresented regions.

Particular attention was given to:

- Southern Africa

Ongoing engagement with national physics communities in the region.

Efforts to strengthen links between IUPAP, African institutions and regional scientific networks.

Opportunities arising from the forthcoming 2027 GA and ICP in South Africa.

- Pacific Islands

Progress on outreach activities involving Pacific Island nations.

Exploration of mechanisms to connect physicists from small island states with IUPAP programmes and international networks.

Potential collaborations with local universities and regional organizations.

The strategic importance of increasing participation from countries that have historically had limited representation within international scientific unions was highlighted.

7. Special Projects and Sponsorship

Kuijuan Jin presented activities related to special projects and sponsorship opportunities.

The discussion focused on:

- Mechanisms for supporting projects aligned with IUPAP's mission (LAAAMP).
- Criteria for evaluating requests for financial support.
- The importance of ensuring geographical balance and broad scientific impact.
- Opportunities to leverage sponsorship activities to increase visibility of physics and strengthen international collaboration.

Several participants stressed the need for transparent procedures and clear evaluation criteria when allocating resources to special projects.

8. Conferences Proposed for Sponsorship

Rudzani Nemutudi presented the conferences proposed for IUPAP sponsorship.

The Council reviewed the applications received and discussed:

- Scientific quality.
- International participation.
- Geographic distribution.
- Alignment with IUPAP objectives.
- Support for early-career researchers and participants from developing countries.

Members emphasized the importance of maintaining high scientific standards while ensuring broad regional representation across the conference program. The discussion also highlighted the role of sponsored conferences in increasing IUPAP visibility and promoting engagement with emerging scientific communities.

DAY 2 – 29 October 2025

1. Review of Day 1

Silvina Ponce Dawson opened the second day with a brief review of the main outcomes of Day 1. No additional decisions were taken.

2. Commission Matters

This was one of the most substantial sessions of the meeting and covered a broad range of issues concerning the functioning of Commissions and their future development.

Reports from Commissions and Affiliated Commissions.

Commission Chairs reported on scientific activities undertaken since the previous EC&CC meeting; conferences and schools supported by the Commissions; prizes and awards; outreach and community-building activities. Several reports highlighted growing participation of early-career scientists and stronger engagement with regional scientific communities. The reports are available on the Indico agenda.

IUPAP–CERN Liaison.

The Council discussed ways in which Commission Chairs could help strengthen relations between IUPAP and CERN. Particular emphasis was placed on improving communication channels; increasing awareness of IUPAP activities within CERN-related communities; identifying areas where closer collaboration could be beneficial.

Commission Prizes and Fund Allocation.

Reviewed procedures related to: Commission prize funding; financial support mechanisms; nomination procedures. A draft form for future ECSP nominations was discussed as a possible tool to improve consistency across Commissions.

Future Commission Chairs (2027–2030).

A substantial discussion was devoted to future Commission leadership. The Council reviewed: the process approved by the 2024 General Assembly; timelines for identifying future Chairs; the importance of achieving geographical, gender and scientific balance. The discussion extended to future nominations for Officers; Vice Presidents at Large and other leadership positions.

Frontiers in Physics Collaboration.

The collaboration with Frontiers in Physics was reviewed in greater detail. Participants discussed: expanding the initiative beyond C12; creating opportunities for all ECSP recipients; developing a future Research Topic dedicated to prize winners. The possibility of involving Frontiers in activities associated with the 2027 GA and ICP was also explored. The proposed theme Physics for Regenerative Development was considered well aligned with the objectives of the Frontiers Planet Prize.

Presentations by selected Commissions.

Presentations were delivered by the Chair of the Commission on Symbols, Units, Nomenclature, Atomic Masses and Fundamental Constants (C2) and the Chair of Working Group 13 on the Newtonian Constant of Gravitation given the closeness of their themes. Among other things, the Council received updates on ongoing international efforts related to measurements of the Newtonian gravitational constant and the work of the relevant expert groups.

Creation of a Commission on Quantum Science and Technology.

A major topic of discussion concerned the report prepared by WG19 and the following discussion coordinated by the Chair of C15, Jaewook Ahn. The rapid growth of Quantum Science and Technology and the increasing number of IUPAP activities in the field were reviewed as well as the final recommendation of the consultation process to create a Commission on Quantum Technologies. The Council generally viewed the proposal positively and considered the establishment of such a Commission as a natural next step in the evolution of IUPAP's structure.

Input from Commission Chairs

Commission Chairs provided additional comments and suggestions on:

- communications;
- funding;
- conference sponsorship;
- Commission operations;
- interaction with Working Groups.

3. Proposal from Rejuvenation Task Force Proposal

Silvina Ponce Dawson presented the work of the Rejuvenation Task Force.

The proposal represented a comprehensive review of IUPAP's governance and organizational structure and aimed to improve:

- effectiveness;
- transparency;
- participation;
- communication;
- engagement with younger generations of physicists.

The presentation covered:

- the methodology followed by the Task Force;
- consultations conducted across the Union;
- proposed structural reforms;
- modifications to Articles and Internal Regulations;
- a proposed implementation roadmap.

The Council discussed how to:

- modernize IUPAP operations;
- strengthen links with member communities;
- improve representation;
- streamline decision-making processes.

Several participants stressed that any changes should preserve institutional continuity while allowing the Union to evolve.

Decisions

General support was expressed for the objectives of the proposal. It was agreed that several elements should be further developed and presented to the General Assembly for consideration.

Actions

- Prepare draft resolutions for GA consideration.
- Finalize proposed amendments to Articles and Internal Regulations.

4. Working Groups

Reports from Working Groups are available in the Indico agenda. The future structure of several of them was discussed.

Presentations by selected Working Groups.

1) WG21 – Physics for Climate Change Action and Sustainability.

Igle Gledhill, Secretary of WG21 reported on activities linking physics research with climate action and sustainability challenges. The discussion highlighted:

- growing engagement with sustainability initiatives;
- links with IDSSD activities;
- opportunities for stronger interdisciplinary collaboration.

2) WG20 – Open Science

Alex Hansen, Chair of WG20 presented progress on Open Science activities. Discussion focused on data sharing, accessibility, international standards and collaboration with CODATA. The importance of including perspectives from countries in the Global South was emphasized.

3) WG16 – Physics and Industry

The Council discussed the evolution of WG16 presented by Christophe Rossel, Chair of WG16.

There was considerable support for:

- strengthening relations with industry;
- creating more systematic interactions with industrial partners;
- transforming WG16 into a permanent structure like a Standing Committee on Physics and Industry under the supervision of a Vice President-at-Large received significant support.

Discussion on the continuation and creation of Working Groups.

4) WG19 – Quantum Science and Technology

Following the completion of its mandate, WG19's future was discussed. The Council considered dissolving WG19 and transferring its work to a future Commission on Quantum Technologies

5) New Working Groups

Two major new initiatives were discussed:

- Working Group on Future Standing Committees. To examine future organizational structures and to review the potential of new Standing Committees.
- Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. To evaluate the impact of AI on physics research, education and society and to identify opportunities and challenges relevant to IUPAP.

Actions

- Develop formal proposals for consideration by the General Assembly.
- Identify membership and leadership for the proposed new Working Groups.

5. Financial Matters

Boris Sharkov, IUPAP Treasurer presented the financial report (accounts and budget).

The discussion examined:

- accounts 2024;
- budget 2025-2027;
- future financial commitments associated with new initiatives.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring that proposed organizational reforms and new programs remained financially sustainable.

The Council expressed satisfaction with the overall financial situation of the Union.

Actions

- Continue monitoring expenditures and strategic investments.
- Evaluate financial implications of proposals emerging from the Rejuvenation Task Force and Working Group discussions.

DAY 3 – 30 October 2025

1. Review of Day 2

Silvina Ponce Dawson opened the final day with a review of the main conclusions from Day 2. No additional decision emerged from the review.

2. Communications

Sandro Scandolo presented developments concerning IUPAP communications.

The discussion focused on:

- Website
- Progress in improving the IUPAP website.
- Updating content to better reflect current activities and priorities.
- Improving visibility of Commissions, Working Groups and Union initiatives.
- Future website development needs.
- Newsletter

Participants reviewed the status of the IUPAP Newsletter and discussed increasing the frequency of publication; encouraging broader contributions from Commissions and Working

Groups; improving dissemination to member communities; using the Newsletter as a tool to increase awareness of IUPAP activities.

Several participants stressed that communication remains one of the key challenges for the Union and that better visibility is essential for membership development, prize nominations and outreach.

3. Outreach Activities: IUPAP/UNESCO Colloquia and IUPAP/IYQ2025 Photo Contest

Silvina Ponce Dawson reported on two major outreach initiatives.

1) IUPAP/UNESCO Colloquia Series

The attendants reviewed progress on the colloquia series devoted to Physics for Society.

The initiative was regarded as one of the most visible legacies of IUPAP's contribution to IYQ2025 and a valuable mechanism for linking physics with broader societal challenges.

The discussion included:

- future topics;
- possible collaborations with UNESCO;
- links with sustainability initiatives and the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.

2) IUPAP/IYQ2025 Photo Contest

Reviewed the participation in the photo contest and discussed:

- visibility achieved through the initiative;
- engagement with the public;
- opportunities to use contest materials in future outreach activities.

4. Report from the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gillian Butcher presented a report on DEI-related activities. Topics included:

- promotion of diversity within IUPAP structures;
- participation of women and underrepresented groups;
- monitoring of representation across Commissions and Working Groups;
- support for international inclusion initiatives.

The discussion highlighted the importance of maintaining DEI considerations across all Union activities, including leadership appointments, conference participation and prize nominations.

5. Activity Report and Interdisciplinary Early Career Scientist Prize

Presented the annual activity report covering the period from October 2024 to October 2025.

The report reviewed:

- major scientific activities;
- outreach initiatives;
- international collaborations;
- governance developments;
- progress made during IYQ2025.

The Interdisciplinary Early Career Scientist Prize was also discussed. Participants reviewed:

- the objectives of the prize;
- possible nomination mechanisms;
- opportunities to raise its visibility;
- links with broader ECSP activities.

6. Discussion on the 2026 EC&CC Meeting

The Council discussed the organization of the next EC&CC meeting. Participants stressed the importance of ensuring broad participation while maintaining efficient meeting formats. Further planning to be carried out by the Presidency and Secretariat.

7. The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) and the Earth–Humanity Coalition

Michel Spiro presented developments concerning the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) and the Earth–Humanity Coalition.

The discussion focused on:

- the role of scientific unions within IDSSD;
- interdisciplinary collaboration;
- the contribution of physics to sustainable development;
- opportunities for IUPAP engagement.

Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that physics remains visible within broader sustainability discussions and international policy initiatives.

Decision.

Continued support for IUPAP engagement in IDSSD-related activities maintaining participation in relevant international initiatives and partnerships.

8. ISC Matters and Relationship with Other Bodies

This session addressed IUPAP's external relations and international representation.

International Science Council (ISC)

The attendants reviewed:

- ongoing ISC activities;
- IUPAP representation within ISC structures;
- mechanisms for selecting IUPAP representatives on external bodies.

There was discussion on establishing clearer procedures and criteria for future appointments.

COSPAR Collaboration

Participants reviewed a draft Memorandum of Understanding with COSPAR.

Discussion focused on:

- areas of common interest;
- potential joint activities;
- strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

Other International Relationships

The Council also considered broader engagement with international scientific organizations and the importance of ensuring effective representation of physics in multidisciplinary forums.

Decisions

- Support for continued engagement with ISC.
- General support for advancing the proposed MoU with COSPAR.
- Recognition of the need for clearer procedures regarding external representation.
- Refine procedures for appointments to external bodies.

9. Comments from Observers and Any Other Business

Observers were invited to provide comments on the meeting and on IUPAP activities. Participants highlighted:

- appreciation for the openness of discussions;
- the importance of international collaboration;
- opportunities for greater engagement between IUPAP and partner organizations.
- Additional comments addressed future outreach opportunities, collaboration mechanisms and communication improvements.

10. Review of the Meeting, GA Resolutions and Future Procedures

Silvina Ponce Dawson reviewed the principal outcomes of the three-day meeting and summarized the resolutions that would be submitted to the General Assembly.

Decisions

The Council agreed to move forward with the package of proposals and resolutions prepared during the meeting for consideration by the General Assembly.

Actions

- Finalize draft resolutions.
- Finalize supporting documentation for the General Assembly.
- Continue implementation planning for approved reforms.

11. Close of the Meeting

Silvina Ponce Dawson thanked all participants, Commission Chairs, Working Group Chairs, observers and Secretariat staff for their contributions. The meeting concluded with recognition of the substantial progress achieved in:

- governance reform;
- membership development;
- communication and outreach;
- sustainability initiatives;
- preparation for future General Assemblies.