International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

Standing Committee for Membership & Development (SC M&D)

Report 2026

I. Gledhill, Chair and Vice-President, Membership & Development (M&D)

1. Background

The Membership Committee was constituted as the Standing Committee for M&D under the Vice-President at Large for M&D by the General Assembly in October 2025. Terms of Reference (ToR) remained the same as in 2024.

2. SC Members[1]

Members were proposed to the Executive Committee (EC) on 2025-01-11 and appointed in that month, and retained in the transition to the SC.

Two members are mandated by the ToR:

- Vice President Membership and Development, Chair: Igle Gledhill
- Secretary General for Financial Affairs, Jens Vigen

Four members appointed by the Executive Council:

- Chair of WG16, Physics and Industry, Christophe Rossel
- Past VP Membership and Development, Nithaya Chetty
- Chair of C13, Joe Niemela
- President-Elect, Sunil Gupta

Co-opted by the VP Membership and Development:

- Secretary to the Executive Council, Gabriella Marra.

3. Meetings and communication

In 2026 no meeting was held in the first half of the year and communication was undertaken by email. Reporting and questions were placed on the agenda of the Officers' meeting, and the decision of the Executive Council (EC) was sought when needed. Meetings are scheduled for 2 Sept 2026 and for Nov/Dec 2026, before and after the General Assembly.

4. Status

March 2025:

52 Territorial Members,

1 Associate Territorial Member,

8 Corporate Associate members.

[1] Territorial Members have not been named except in certain cases. The EC may call for details which will readily be provided.

It's observed that incoming Liaison chairs or Presidents are not always briefed on their IUPAP membership. An additional beneficial measure will be to compose and send a short, readable, briefing page, including a guide to the website and benefits of membership, with the annual invoices to remind Liaisons to brief incoming Chairs or Presidents.

5. Strategy and progress

A simple strategy in the headings below was proposed and accepted by the SC.

5.1. Current members: keep them

Two Territorial Members, TMs, requested to move to a lower number of units or lower cost due to financial pressure by their Adhering Bodies, in both cases academies. In similar cases, the physical society is the Adhering Body and in a relatively small community of physicists finds it difficult to pay IUPAP units from its individual membership fees. The VP and Secretariat are working with the TM Liaison chairs to formulate benefits that are relevant to the specific physical society, Adhering Body and/or territory according to the case.

During to structural changes in the USA, strong support of the American Physical Society (APS) and the National Academies of Science (NAS) have been absolutely invaluable to IUPAP and to global physics.

In some cases, contact is lost with the Liaison Committee or the Adhering Body. The most fruitful action has been to locate personal contacts who can help in renewing the connection.

5.2. New members: approach them

IAPS, the Int. Assoc. of Physics Students, proves to be a very useful channel for generating interest in IUPAP membership. IAPS is represented on the SC for Physics Outside Academia and held its Annual General Meeting in Rabat, Morocco, in August 2026, and the presence of Christophe Rossel has been key in developing a way forward.

5.3. CAMs: find them

WG16 Physics in Industry and the SC Physics Outside Academia are in close and beneficial contact with the SC M&D.

One CAM experienced the problem that an incoming CEO has not been briefed on IUPAP membership.

5.4. ATMs: prioritise them

Nepal as the first IUPAP Associate Territorial Member (ATM) is considering signing an MOU for a second term ATM. Since signing the ATM MOU in 2023, there have been two elections in the Nepal Physical Society. Personal contact is being renewed.

The ATM strategy at present is to provide an IUPAP-ATM link and MOU to foster the development of physics in a territory, with the prospect of that country becoming independent enough to become a full TM. The IUPAP budget can at present accommodate about 10% of membership at the ATM level. It is likely that the next ATMs will be regional physics collaborations.

5.5. Regional development: encourage

This has been a focus for membership development. Close contact with C13, Physics for development, is a key: C13 has enabled many, many outstanding workshops and meetings across developing countries. Territories with small populations of physicists, which may also be World Bank Low Income or Lower-Middle Income Countries (LICs and LMICs), may find it impossible to become TMs unless they join together. The concept of Territorial Membership can accommodate Regional Physical Societies as ATMs or TMs.

1. Pacific Island Nations

In November 2025, IUPAP collaborated with UNESCO Pacific to create the Pacific Island Nation Physics Week, in Nadi, Fiji, with an UNESCO-IUPAP Entrepreneurship course and an IUPAP-UNESCO Physics Summit of leaders. Participants from 8 independent states participated: Samoa, Fiji, Papua-New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tonga. These are 8 of the approximately 11 Pacific Island independent nations.


IUPAP-UNESCO Physics Summit


UNESCO-IUPAP Entrepreneurship


Artika Devi, UNESCO Pacific


Aioema Halaevalu Fonongavainga Valita, Tonga, formally welcomes Minister the Honourable Aseri Radrodro
Image credits Artika Devi

Australia and New Zealand were essential and prominent sponsors and participants. Significant effort was required to find sponsors for travel grants.

Two task teams were set up by the Physics Summit, one to consider a regional physical society and the other to find sponsorship for initiation with a small joint executive chaired by Gabriel Bioletti. The summit brought to light the South Pacific Physical Society, which had been dormant up to 2025 and has now been revived. In the second half of 2026 the task teams will meet with the SPPS. A number of physicists are members of the Pacific Academy of Sciences and will seek its endorsement.

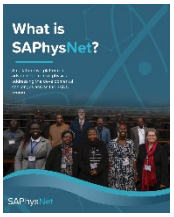
Many thanks to Nithaya Chetty for initiating contact in 2018. This effort would not have been possible without the invaluable partnership of Susan Scheegans, Regional Science Programme Specialist for the Pacific States (Samoa) and Artika Devi, Fiji. Raghu (ETCube[2]), Gabriel Bioletti (OpenStar), Joe Niemela (C13), Manjula Sharma (C14), and the dedicated LOC.

[2] https://etcube.org/

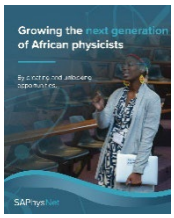
2. Southern Africa

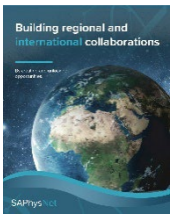
The Southern Africa Physics Network has representatives from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These are 13 of the 16 countries in the Southern African Development Community.





The chair is Prof Azwinndini Muronga, Nelson Mandela University, and SAIP forms the Secretariat. Many thanks to Nithaya Chetty, for the founding vision for this development.





The Task Team has formed 5 Working Groups, dealing with governance and constitution, White Paper on Shaping Physics in SADC, Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation, Local Organising Committee representation for the IUPAP GA and International Conference on Physics 2027, and Communications and Outreach. Coordination with Women in Physics has started. The website https://saphysnet.saip.org.za/ has been launched.



https://www.sadc.int/member-states

The 3rd Consultative Forum was held on 10 July, 2026, at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, in conjunction with the 69th SAIP Annual Conference. IUPAP provided a grant that was able to bring Professor Cosmas Muiva from Botswana and Dr Sifiso Nkambule from Eswatini.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean

Discussions are planned for October 2026 with FEIASOFI, Federación Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Fisica, and CLAF, Centro Latinoamericano de Física. Of the 35 countries in the region, FEIASOFI has 21 members, and CLAF has 14 members with an additional 5 signed on. Many thanks to Silvina Ponce Dawson for initiating the meetings.

Defaulting members: get them back on board; exclusion and resumption

At the 2024 GA the following policy was described and is recorded here for clarity.

- perennially defaulting members were 'given notice' at the 2023 GA to make arrangements to meet their obligations or be formally excluded at the 2024 GA
- MOUs with renewed commitment were signed with some countries
- territories not fully paid up for 6 years were formally excluded from the Union
- Debt is capped at an amount equivalent to the cost for a 6 year period at the rate for 1 unit (CHF 15 000 in current terms)

- IUPAP continues to communicate with excluded territories, keeps them connected with the work of the Union
- VP Membership and Development and the SC continue to engage with excluded territories, aiming to develop a plan for resumption of full membership
- It is possible to negotiate a resumption plan through an MOU in which dues are ramped up from a minimum value to a full unit, and if the plan is adhered to for the term of the MOU, the debt is officially written off in the books of the IUPAP.

For members in arrears of 3 to 6 years the following policy has been clarified by the 2025-2027 SC:

- There are no voting rights
- They do not form part of the quorum for voting at the GA
- defaulting members may continue to serve on Commissions and WG's for the 3 year term.

6. General remarks

IUPAP's mission is a vital element in approaching new members and retaining existing members: *To assist in the worldwide development of physics, to foster international cooperation in physics, and to help in the application of physics toward solving problems of concern to humanity.*

Low Income countries and Lower-Middle Income countries have relatively small, but vigorous, physical societies, but frequently lack the science infrastructure that is stable enough to sustain the payment of one unit of membership dues. ATM membership and the formation of regional physical societies can help, but long-term measures should be sought in the current economic climate.

The professionally friendly spirit in which IUPAP approaches problem-solving is of vital importance.

7. Acknowledgements

The Chair thanks each member for their unwavering response to queries and their wisdom in building relationships with members. Special thanks to Jens Vigen for guarding the IUPAP spirit of professional friendliness in all communications, and to Gabriella Marra for tireless professional responses and guidance. Your commitment does not go unnoticed.