



International Union of Pure and Applied Physics



International Commission for Optics

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)**

**AND**

**International Commission for Optics (ICO)**

**On their relation and cooperation to prepare  
a future International Union of Optics and Photonics**

RECOGNIZING the importance of Optics and Photonics technologies and their deep roots in Physics and Light Science

RECOGNIZING that Optics and Photonics have evolved exponentially worldwide since the invention of the laser in 1960 and emerging of related technologies

NOTING that the Optics and Photonics community includes nowadays many members from fields from world of science contemplating areas beyond Physics, like vision scientists, telecommunication engineers or even artists among many other activities;

NOTING that Optics and Photonics have an impact also in areas related to social sciences, for example the exploitation of light-based technologies in cultural heritage or the study of the psychological effects of light and colors.

NOTING that since the founding of the International Commission for Optics it has been affiliated commission AC1 of IUPAP;

NOTING that optics and photonics impact on and lead to advances in many other areas than physics

AWARE OF the global leadership of ICO in the fields of Optics and Photonics;

FURTHER NOTING the recent creation in 2018 of the International Science Council, of which scientific international unions are members.

**IUPAP and ICO AGREE** to promote an International Union of Optics and Photonics that will substitute ICO in the future, and agree to further their cooperation according to the following points:

1. To jointly promote scientific research on Optics and Photonics fields having a clear connection with Physics.

2. To promote the understanding of the great significance of Optics and Photonics and their relationships with Physics.
3. To jointly support, organize and host, with additional partners where appropriate, regional or international workshops and meetings accordingly to the rules of each union.
4. To leverage our collective scientific knowledge of Optics and Photonics, and help inform relevant national and international scientific policy decisions.
5. To develop joint proposals for funding, when possible, to advance the shared objectives of the member organizations.
6. To share exhibit or booth space at selected events of interest.
7. To promote awareness of both member organizations among their respective memberships through regular publication of information items noting conferences, publications, and activities in the respective publications and web sites of the organizations.
8. To develop and host a web portal to facilitate sharing of information and outreach to external users of scientific information interesting to both parties.
9. To encourage submission of professional papers and information on common fields in the unions' journals and other publications.
10. To discuss expanded participation of each unions' members, Chapters, and /or National Committees through membership and attendance at each other's symposia or workshops and annual and regional meetings.
11. To seek opportunities for sharing expertise and professional standards, and training of scientists - particularly those in developing countries.
12. To promote active participation in scientific meetings and international memberships in both organizations, particularly among scientists from developing countries and with a focus on gender balance.
13. To discuss joint prizes for researchers in the fields of Optics and Photonics with connection to Physics.
14. To share governance, meeting and other best practices and lessons learned to promote better efficiency and effectiveness of the individual organizations.
15. Presidents and organizational representatives will communicate regularly to discuss and plan common activities.
16. Each Union will invite the other to appoint a representative who will participate in meetings of its General Assembly and its Executive Council or Board with full voting rights.
17. The Unions will consult before each meeting of the ISC and try to establish a common position on the resolutions and decisions before the meeting

- 18. All reference to “meetings” of the Unions and their related bodies, and of the ISC and its related bodies, will apply to electronic meetings of, and electronic requests for opinions made by, those bodies.
- 19. Both parties must diligently and conscientiously attempt to make decisions by consensus with full and careful consideration of minority views.
- 20. In order to guide and organize the cooperation in the sense of this MoU a committee will be established as a combined structure with equal number of members from both parties.
- 21. No party to this MOU shall have any legal or financial obligations to the other party to this MOU, unless agreed to by separate, written agreement and signed by both parties.
- 22. This MOU shall become effective upon the signature of both parties hereto and may be renewed at the discretion of both parties hereto.

Signed on behalf of their respective organizations.



December 2019

Michel Spiro  
President, IUPAP

2 December 2019

Date



Roberta Ramponi  
President, ICO

5 December 2019

Date