

**STATUTES  
OF  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOIL SCIENCES  
December 2018**

**THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION**

**A. Name, objectives and seat of the IUSS.**

- A1. The name of the Union shall be the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). IUSS succeeds the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS).
- A2. The objectives of the IUSS shall be to foster all branches of the soil sciences and their applications, and to give support to soil scientists in the pursuit of their activities.
- A3. The activities of the IUSS shall include:
- a. Arranging meetings, conferences and the World Congress of Soil Science;
  - b. Providing a structure for managing the science of soil science;
  - c. Arranging for the publication and distribution of material, relevant to the interests of the Union, and its members;
  - d. Establishing cooperation with other related organizations;
  - e. Arranging for studies in particular fields, such as specific definitions, classifications and databases;
  - f. Establishing prizes or awards to encourage and recognize excellence in the discipline;
  - g. Representing Soil Science to a wide external audience.
  - h. Taking any other action that will advance soil science
- A4. The seat of the IUSS shall be the professional address of the IUSS Secretariat
- A5. All interpretations of the Statutes by the Council are final. The Council promulgates and amends Bye-laws where this is needed to clarify the Statutes, or to improve the operations of the IUSS.

**B. Membership**

The classes of membership shall be as follows:

- B1. National Societies of Soil Science, or alternatively national organizations representing the soil scientists of that country, may join as **Full Members**.

Only one organization can join from each country. Where the adhering organization is different from the National Soil Science Society, the National Society shall be a part of, or have a formal agreement with, the adhering organization. Regional associations may be formed by a group of countries that do not have a National Soil Science Society, so that the associations may become Full Members. To become a Full Member the agreed upon subscription fees must be paid as prescribed in the Bye-Laws or as negotiated.

- B2. The individual members of a National Soil Science Society that is a Full Member of the IUSS, directly or through an adhering organization will be **Members** of the IUSS. They will pay no direct subscription, because the subscription of the National Society or other adhering organization will be considered to cover them. They will have rights to attend all IUSS World Congresses of Soil Science and meetings, to receive IUSS publications through their National Societies or Regional Associations, and to vote for Divisional, Commission and Working Group officers.
- B3. Individuals may have **Individual Membership** and retain their link directly with the IUSS, if they reside in a country or region that is not a Full Member of the IUSS. They will have the same rights as **Members**, but will receive publications directly from the IUSS, and will pay a subscription as defined in the Bye-laws.
- B4. Small National Soil Science Societies, societies or associations for related disciplines, may be admitted as **Associate Members**. They will not have a vote or seat in Council, but their members will have all other rights as **Members**. Associate Members will pay a subscription fee as defined in the Bye-laws.
- B5. Organizations or individuals that wish to support soil science in various ways may become **Sustaining Members**. This carries no voting rights. They will pay a subscription fee as defined in the Bye-laws.
- B6. Membership in the Union shall be suspended if subscriptions are more than 1 year in arrears, or delay negotiations with the Budget and Finance Committee in extenuating circumstances, payment becoming due on 1st January each year. If back payment is made the suspension will be withdrawn.
- B7. **Honorary Members** will be elected by Council, and shall be living at the time of election. They must be scientists of great distinction in Soil Science and have made substantial contributions to ISSS/IUSS. The number of Honorary Members that can be elected every four years at the Inter-Congress meeting will be determined by the merit of the candidates but shall not exceed 10. Voting will take place at the Inter-Congress Meeting as defined in Bye-Laws 5.1h. The nominations for Honorary Membership shall be made with supporting documentation as defined in the Bye-Laws 5.1 h.
- B8. A Member of any status can be expelled on a 2/3 vote of the Council if the member has broken the Statutes of the IUSS, or has brought it into disrepute, or has been persistently in arrears with subscriptions.

## **THE STRUCTURE OF THE IUSS**

### **C. The Council**

- C1. The Council consists of the Executive Committee, one accredited representative from each Full Member, and three elected representatives of the Honorary Members.
- C2. The Council is the supreme body of the IUSS, and carries general responsibility for the efficient functioning and the success of the IUSS. The President chairs the Council, unless he/she has specifically delegated his/her authority to another member of the President's Committee for that occasion. Fifty percent of the Council members constitute a quorum. The Council must meet during the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science and for the Inter-Congress meeting. The President or his/her delegate shall report on the activities and decisions of Council to the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science.
- C3. Council members representing Full Members must be accredited by the relevant organization to the Secretary-General at least one month before a World Congress of Soil Science in writing. They shall normally serve from the beginning of one World Congress of Soil Science to the beginning of the next, and can be re-accredited for further terms. Their method of selection is for the relevant Full Member to decide. A voting card will be issued by the Secretary General to the appropriate adhering Full Member representative who is accredited to serve as that organization's Council member
- C4. Each Full Member shall have one representative and one vote on Council.
- C5. The Council has the following specific functions, together with its general responsibility for the well being of the IUSS:
  - a. To ratify the country and venue of the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science and the Vice President (Congress). This ratification would be done at the Inter-Congress Meeting of Council, approximately 6 years before the Congress. The selection of the host country should take place at least 6 years (and normally 8 years) before the date of the World Congress of Soil Science. The selection of the hosts of the WCSS longer than the normal 6 years is at the discretion of Council, but this decision should be made no later than 6 years.
  - b. To appoint the Secretariat and Treasurer and if necessary terminate their appointments.
  - c. To determine the subscriptions fee and charges for all classes of Members (section B) upon recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - d. To discuss and determine changes to the Division/Commission structure of the IUSS, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

- e. To oversee and approve arrangements for the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science and other major meetings.
  - f. To set policy guidelines for the President's Committee and Executive Committee, for action when Council is not in session.
  - g. To establish Review Groups and Task Forces and provide terms of reference for them to examine scientific, political, or financial, or administrative issues affecting the Union, and to decide action on the basis of their reports.
  - h. To receive the reports of the Secretariat and the audited accounts of the Treasurer, and to take appropriate action.
  - i. To elect Honorary Members.
  - j. To establish and provide terms of reference for the Standing Committees.
  - k. To establish, the Electoral Committee that oversees the elections of the IUSS. (As per section K1).
  - l. To establish and modify Bye-Laws for the smooth operation of the IUSS.
  - m. Ratify and publish the results of elections.
  - n. The Council will elect the President- Elect from a list of Candidates submitted by the Standing Committee for Presidential Elections the membership of which must be geographically representative.
- C6. When required the Council is empowered to make decisions by means of electronic or postal ballot.
- C7. The President- Elect will succeed to the position of President after 2 years, and following a further term of 2 years will take the position of Past-President for two years. The President, President-Elect and Past President are all voting members of the Executive Committee.

**D. The President's Committee.**

- D1. The President's Committee is the collective name for the IUSS Senior Officers, i.e. the President, the Past President, the President-Elect, Vice President Congress, and the Treasurer.. The President or President-Elect of the Union chairs the President's Committee meetings.
- D2. The President's Committee should meet proceeding and at the World Congress of Soil Science and Inter-Congress meeting to facilitate the organization of the Executive Committee and Council meetings. Otherwise, the members shall remain in regular contact with each other.

- D3. The President-Elect shall succeed the President if the latter is incapacitated or resigns, or judged unfit to serve by the Council. If the President-Elect succeeds the President, then a new President-Elect will be elected by Council, by electronic ballot. Both will serve for the normal term of 2 years plus the remaining term of the President who steps down,
- D4. The functions of the President's Committee are as follows:
- a. The continuing management of the IUSS, following policy guidelines established by Council.
  - b. Oversight of IUSS finances, as managed by the Treasurer in collaboration with the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - c. The President's Committee is responsible for the investment policy of the Union with the underlying guidance of minimizing risk to the Union's funds. It has authority to delegate certain responsibilities to professional experts in various fields when appropriate.
  - d. Preparation of Council and Executive Committee business, with the support of the Secretariat.
  - e. The production and dissemination of information and publications to members, as managed by the Secretariat .
  - f. Continuing contact with ICSU, other Unions and organizations.
  - g. International representation of the IUSS.

#### **E. The Executive Committee.**

- E 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President's Committee, the Treasurer, and the Chairpersons of the Divisions and Standing Committees of the IUSS. The Chairperson of a Division may delegate his or her Executive Committee authority to one of the Vice-Chairs of the Division or a Chairperson of a Commission within his/her Division, with the concurrence of the IUSS President.
- E2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for all scientific activities of the IUSS, including oversight of the Divisional structures, the work of scientific Review Groups or Task Forces, (C5g), Working Groups, scientific liaison and collaboration, and any other actions required on scientific grounds.
- E3. The Executive Committee shall meet one or two days prior to the World Congress of Soil Science and the Inter-Congress meeting, and during these meetings. The President of the Union shall chair the Executive Committee, unless he or she has delegated his or her authority to a member of the President's Committee for a specific occasion.

- E4. The Executive Committee shall consider all formal proposals (see G3, G7) for changes in the IUSS structures, and shall pass them to Council for decision, with their recommendation for action or rejection. All proposals should be sent to the Executive Committee at least 3 months in advance of the next Council meeting by the Secretariat .
- E5. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to Council concerning candidates for Honorary Membership, on the basis of nominations made by Full Members (see C5i) as well as Honorary Members. An ad hoc committee, composed of Executive Committee (EC) members, will be appointed by the President to provide initial screening of nominees for Honorary Members. The ad hoc Committee reports back to the EC, and the EC as a whole makes the recommendations to Council.
- E6. The Executive Committee shall review all Recommendations/Resolutions at their meetings and pass them to the Council with their recommendation for approval or rejection.
- E7. The Division Chairs will report to the Executive Committee biennially (every two years) on the performance of Working Groups. Based on these evaluations, a recommendation will be made to the Council concerning the status and activities of each Working Group and whether it should be maintained or terminated.
- E8. In case Council cannot meet to deal with urgent business, the Executive Committee shall act in its capacity, submitting such action to Council at its next meeting for ratification. The Executive Committee may take needed action by electronic or postal means as needed.

**F. The Standing Committees.**

- F1. Standing Committees may be established by Council to oversee areas of its business and to advise it. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees are members of Executive Committee. The President is a member on all Standing Committees.

**G. The Divisions**

- G1. The scientific work of the IUSS shall be carried out through Divisions, which are defined by subject, and are arranged to cover the whole area of disciplinary interests of the Union. The Divisions shall be composed of Commissions and Working Groups.
- G2. Each Division shall be managed by a Divisional Committee, consisting of Chairperson, First Vice-Chairperson, and Second Vice-Chairperson, the immediate past Divisional Chairperson, the Division Chairperson elect, and the Chairs of the Commissions in that division.

- G3. To ensure proper coordination with the arrangements for the subsequent IUSS World Congress of Soil Science, the First and Second Vice-Chairperson of each Division shall be appointed by and from the host country where the next World Congress of Soil Science will take place.
- G4. The Divisional Committee shall manage and direct its scientific program, and shall ensure that there is a suitable level of activity in all main topics within the Division. It shall give careful attention to the development of the science, and ensure that the Division responds to new developments.
- G5. The Divisional Committee may make proposals for changes in the structure within the Division, or make comments upon proposals arising from elsewhere, and send them to the President at least 6-months in advance of the World Congress of Soil Science or the Inter-Congress meeting for consideration by the Executive Committee, before being sent on to Council with the views of the Executive Committee.
- G6. Each Division shall have a Nominating Committee with a membership as defined in the Bye-Laws. The function of this committee is to nominate members for all offices within the Division, including all Commissions within their respective Division, excluding officers appointed (First Vice Chairpersons of each Division as shown under G3). These nominations will be passed to the Electoral Committee established by the Council.
- G7. Each Division shall report its activities to the Secretariat yearly and this information will be published in the IUSS Bulletin and posted on the IUSS website.
- G8. Division officers will serve a 4-year term as “officers” until the end of the following World Congress of Soil Science.

## **H. The Commissions**

- H1. Each Commission has the responsibility for an appropriate part of the subject matter related to its Division.
- H2. Each Commission shall be managed by a committee made up of a Chairperson and a first Vice-Chairperson elected by the procedures defined in Section K. The Chairperson is a member of the Divisional Committee.
- H3. The activities of each Commission shall be reported yearly to the Divisional Chairperson and this information shall form part of a division report, which will be published in the IUSS Bulletin or posted on the IUSS Website.
- H4. Commission officers of the IUSS (excluding Working group officers will serve a 4-year term as “officers” until the end of the following World Congress of Soil Science.

## **I. The Working Groups**

- I1. Working Groups are part of one or more Division(s)/Commissions. Members with common interests in topics not specifically addressed by Divisions or Commissions may propose the establishment of a Working Group. If endorsed by the Division(s), the proposal shall be sent to the Executive Committee, which will confirm or deny the proposal.
- I2. Working Groups will elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson as officers. The IUSS and the Division(s) to which they belong will give reasonable support for their activities. The Working Group will normally exist for a short period of time as long as it maintains an active program of scientific work, but normally will not exist beyond 8 years.
- I3. The activities of each Working Group shall be reported yearly to the Division(s) to which it belongs.
- I4. The period for the term of office for the Working Group Officers will be at discretion of the Working Group (K7)
- I5. The activity of each Working Group will be reviewed at each meeting of the Executive Committee. A Working Group showing no or very little scientific activity will be disbanded by the Executive Committee.

## **J. The World Congress of Soil Science**

- J1. The World Congress of Soil Science is the main event of the IUSS. It shall cover all parts of the discipline and of IUSS. It is open to all Members of the IUSS and other participants.
- J2. The host country National Society or adhering organization shall officially cosponsor and be financially liable for the congress, and shall make all necessary fundraising and other arrangements to ensure the success of the World Congress of Soil Science. These arrangements shall be submitted to Council at its meeting at the previous World Congress of Soil Science.
- J3. The proceedings of the World Congress of Soil Science may be published by the host country National Society, or other adhering organization, using methods agreed to by the Council.

## **K. Elections**

- K1. The Council will establish an Electoral Committee that will manage the election procedures for filling the offices of the Divisions and Commissions. The composition and duties of the Electoral Committee are defined in the Bye-Laws (5.3).



- K2. The Divisional Nomination Committees (DNC) will solicit candidates for the different offices within the Divisions and Commissions, screen potential candidates and provide candidate lists to the Electoral Committee for preparation of ballots no later than May 1 of the year before the Congress. Candidates may be suggested by Full Members by submitting names to the DNC but only the DNC may place names on the list submitted to the Electoral Committee.
- K3 Voting for all Divisional and Commission officers shall be completed 6 months before the Congress.
- K4. Voting by Members will be conducted using a procedure developed by the National Society or adhering organization to the Union. Results of the election will be reported by the National Society or adhering organization to the Electoral Committee via the President. Item 5.2 in the Bye-Laws defines the procedure.
- K5. Elections will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
- K6. All officers except the President, President Elect, Past President, Vice President (Congress) and appointed First Vice-Chairs of the Divisions can be re-elected for one further term. The Treasurer and Chairs of Standing Committees can be appointed by Council for several terms.
- K7. The election of Working Group officers shall take place at any organized meeting of the Working Group and elected officers will serve a maximum 4-year term starting after the election. Working group chairs can be re-elected more than once. Their names will be submitted to the President as soon as possible after the election takes place.
- K8. The Honorary Members to serve on Council shall be elected by a postal or electronic vote by the whole body of Honorary Members as managed by the Secretary at least 3 months in advance of the Inter-Congress Meeting and the World Congress of Soil Science.

## **OTHER REGULATIONS**

### **L. Finance and Subscriptions**

- L1. The Union's funds are in the care of the Treasurer acting in consultation with the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Treasurer and Budget and Finance Committee Chair shall share legal access to and sign-off authority for all IUSS accounts. Decisions relating to investment funds are the responsibility of the President's Committee. (see 6.2 of Bye-Laws) Budgetary line items proposed annually by the Budget and Finance Committee are approved by the Executive Committee and Council. Annual expenditures are authorized by the Treasurer, acting in consultation with the President and/or Chair of Budget and Finance Committee, for minor sums above set limits and for non-entitlement expense line items.

- L2. An outside auditor shall be selected by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare accounts for each calendar year and send them for audit. The audited accounts shall be integrated into a time course report by the Budget and Finance Committee and this shall be published on the IUSS website.
- L3. For Full Members, at entry, the adhering organization from each country shall agree with the IUSS on an appropriate category on the standard scale of subscriptions considering the number of members in that country's National Society for Soil Science or adhering organization, the per capita income in that country, and the arrangements made by the adhering organization. The subscription shall be due at the beginning of each calendar year. The Executive Committee shall review the scale of subscriptions for adhering members before each IUSS World Congress of Soil Science when proposals may be made to Council for its amendment. The Budget and Finance Committee in consultation with the Treasurer shall develop the subscription fees as defined in the Bye-Laws.
- L4. The Council shall set the Individual Member, Associate Member and Sustaining Member subscription fees.

**M. Changes to the Statutes**

- M1. Council can only effect changes in these Statutes, on a 2/3 majority of voting members of Council. The proposed changes must have been publicized to the Full Members at least 60 days before the vote.
- M2. A new or revised Statute shall come into force on a date decided by Council, which shall be as soon as possible after the publication of the results of a positive vote.

**N. Bye-Laws**

- N1. The Council will establish Bye-Laws to cover the detailed interpretations of the Statutes and set rules for Subjects that are not dealt with in the Statutes.
- N2. Changes to the Bye-Laws can be made by a simple majority vote of the Council on a formal motion.
- N3. A new or revised Bye-Law shall come into effect on a date decided by Council, which shall be as soon as possible after the publication of the results of a positive vote.

**O. Profit Sharing from Country Hosting the World Congress of Soil Science**

- O1. The IUSS is not responsible for any losses incurred by the host country in hosting the World Congress of Soil Science.

- O2. The IUSS shall receive 50% of the profits arising from the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science.
- O3. The funds contributed to IUSS by the host country shall be used for program enrichment of Divisions and Commissions, and for front-end funding to the host country for the next World Congress of Soil Science.
- P. **Task Force(s).**
- P1 The President or Executive Committee are given the power to appoint Task Force(s) as needed that would deal with specific items and for a specific time. The Task Forces would not be the same as Standing Committees but appointed for a fixed timeframe with a clearly defined agenda. Chairs of these Task Forces would not be members of the Council and of the Executive Committee.