

**STATUTES
OF
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOIL SCIENCES
(October 2023 revision)**

THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION

A. Name, objectives and headquarter of the IUSS.

- A1. The name of the Union is the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). IUSS succeeds the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS).
- A2. The objectives of the IUSS are 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 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 and nurturing 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. Providing Stimulus funds for activities and projects to assist the development of Soil Science generally but particularly in regions of the world where lack of resources limit opportunities;
 - h. Representing Soil Science to a wide external audience;
 - i. Taking any other action that will advance soil science.
- A4. The headquarter of the IUSS will 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 are 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 must 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. Organizations or individuals that wish to support soil science in various ways may become **Supporting Members**. Donors and funding organizations may be included in the IUSS as Supporting Members. The Supporting Members carry no voting rights. They will pay a subscription fee as defined in the Bye-laws.
- B4. Membership in the Union will 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.
- B5. **Honorary Members** will be elected by Council and must 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 must not exceed 10. Voting will take place at the Inter-Congress Meeting as defined in Bye-Laws 6.1 k. The nominations for Honorary Membership must be made with supporting documentation as defined in the Bye-Laws 6.1 j.
- B6. Life Membership are members who have previously taken out Life Membership in ISSS will continue as Life Members of IUSS and will receive all due rights and amenities.
- B7. 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 every year: in hybrid during the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science and for the Inter-Congress meeting and virtually the other years. The President or his/her delegate must 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 Secretariat at least one month before a World Congress of Soil Science in writing. They must 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 Secretariat to the appropriate adhering Full Member's representative who is accredited to serve as that organization's Council member.
- C4. Each Full Member will 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 must 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 earlier than the normal 6 years is at the discretion of Council, but this decision must be made no later than 6 years.
 - b. To approve the Strategic Plan
 - c. To appoint the Secretariat and Treasurer and if necessary, terminate their appointments.
 - d. To determine the subscriptions fee and charges for all classes of Members (section B) upon recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee.
 - e. To approve the Statutes and Bye-Laws for the smooth operation of the IUSS on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
 - f. To discuss and determine changes to the Division/Commission structure of the IUSS, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
 - g. To oversee and approve arrangements for the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science and other major meetings.

- h. To set policy guidelines for the President's Committee and Executive Committee, for action when Council is not in session.
 - i. To establish 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.
 - j. To receive the reports of the Secretariat and the audited accounts of the Treasurer, and to take appropriate action.
 - k. To elect Honorary Members.
 - l. To establish and provide terms of reference for the Standing Committees.
 - m. To establish the Electoral Committee that oversees the elections of the IUSS. (As per section L1).
 - k. To establish the Presidential Election Committee that oversees the elections of the President and Honorary Members.
 - l. Ratify and publish the results of elections.
 - p. 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. It is recommended that the list of candidates will consist of at least two people.:-
- C6. Each Council Member can have only one vote and voting on behalf of other absentee members is not permitted. Council voting is by a secure electronic system considering the 50 % quorum of C2.
- 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 must 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 must remain in regular contact with each other.

- D3. The President-Elect will 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 ISC, other Unions and organizations.
 - g. International representation of the IUSS.

E. The Executive Committee.

- E 1. The Executive Committee will consist of the President's Committee, and the Chairs of the Divisions and Standing Committees of the IUSS. The Chair of a Division may delegate his or her Executive Committee authority to one of the Vice-Chairs of the Division or a Chair of a Commission within his/her Division, with the concurrence of the IUSS President. The Chairs of the Standing Committees can also delegate their authority to a member of the Committee. Delegation is recommended whenever the Chairs of Divisions or Standing Committees are not able to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee. The decisions of the Executive Committee are taken on the basis of the simple majority of those present.
- E2. The Executive Committee will be responsible for all scientific activities of the IUSS, including oversight of the Divisional structures, the work of Task Forces, (C5i), Working Groups, scientific liaison and collaboration, and any other actions required on scientific grounds.
- E3. The Executive Committee must meet in person prior to the World Congress of Soil Science and the Inter-Congress meeting, and during these meetings. In the intervening periods the Executive Committee must meet on a regular basis electronically. The President of the Union must 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 must consider all formal proposals (see G3, G7, G5) for changes in the IUSS structures, and pass them to Council for decision, with their recommendation for action or rejection. All proposals must be sent to the Executive Committee at least 3 months in advance of the next Council meeting by the Secretariat.
- E5. The Committee for Presidential Elections must review the nominations for Honorary Members and provide an initial screening of nominees for Honorary Membership. This will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval before being circulated to Council for voting at the Inter Congress Meeting.
- E6. The Executive Committee must review all Recommendations/Resolutions at their meetings and pass them to the Council with their recommendation for approval or rejection.
- E7. In case Council cannot meet to deal with urgent business, the Executive Committee will 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 Chair 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 will 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 will be composed of Commissions and Working Groups.
- G2. Each Division will be managed by a Divisional Committee, consisting of Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair, the immediate past Divisional Chair, the Division Chair-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-Chair of each Division will be appointed by and from the host country where the next World Congress of Soil Science will take place.
- G4. The Divisional Committee will manage and direct its scientific program and must ensure that there is a suitable level of activity in all main topics within the Division. It must 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 3-months in advance of the Council meeting for consideration by the Executive Committee, before being sent on to Council with the views of the Executive Committee.
- G6. Each Division must 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-Chairs of each Division as shown under G3). These nominations will be passed to the Electoral Committee established by the Council.
- G7. Each Division must 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” from the beginning of the first year after the 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. They are aimed at promoting, supervising, and coordinating the initiatives related to their subject matter.
- H2. Each Commission will be managed by a committee made up of a Chair and a first Vice-Chair elected by the procedures defined in Section K. The Chair is a member of the Divisional Committee.
- H3. The activities of each Commission must be reported yearly to the Divisional Chair and this information must 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” from the beginning of the first year after the World Congress of Soil Science.

I. The Research Forum

- I1. The membership of the Research Forum will comprise: The Past-President (Chair), and the Division chairs as its Steering Committee, Division Vice-Chairs and Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Commissions and Working Groups and the President and President Elect as advisory members.
- I2. The aims of the Research Forum will include: identification of emerging scientific themes; providing a cross-cutting commentary of the Strategic Plan; contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan; identification of cross-cutting issues of the Divisions; communication of key (research) findings done by the Commissions and

Working Groups to the scientific community; identification of research activities to be supported by the Stimulus Fund. The activities of the Research Forum are aimed to complement and not replicate, substitute, or overlap those of the other structures of the IUSS, such as the Executive and the Divisional Committees.

- I3. The Research Forum must hold virtual quarterly meetings organised by the IUSS Secretariat with the focus provided from each Division in turn.

J. The Working Groups

- J1. 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 must be sent to the Executive Committee, which will confirm or deny the proposal.
- J2. Working Groups will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair 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. A working Group which is deemed to be active for more than 8 years, must preferably be converted to or merged in a Commission.
- J3. The activities of each Working Group must be reported yearly to the Division(s) to which it belongs.
- J4. The activity of each Working Group will be reviewed every year by the Executive Committee. A Working Group must not overlap or duplicate activities of other WGs or Commissions and if opportune can be merged with other WGs or Commissions or be disbanded by the Executive Committee.

K. The World Congress of Soil Science

- K1. The World Congress of Soil Science is the main event of the IUSS. It must cover all parts of the discipline and of IUSS. It is open to all Members of the IUSS and other participants.
- K2. The host country National Society or adhering organization must deliver on behalf of IUSS and jointly officially cosponsor and be jointly financially liable for the Congress and must make all necessary fundraising and other arrangements to ensure the success of the World Congress of Soil Science. These arrangements must be submitted to Council at its meeting at the previous World Congress of Soil Science.
- K3. 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.

L. Elections

- L1. 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 (6.3).
- L2. 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.
- L3. Voting for all Divisional and Commission officers must be completed 6 months before the Congress.
- L4. 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 6.2 in the Bye-Laws defines the procedure.
- L5. Elections will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
- L6. All officers except the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Vice-President (Congress) and appointed First and Second 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 two terms. After two terms within a single role, it is possible to then move to a different role.
- L7. The election of Working Group officers must 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 no more than once. Their names will be submitted to the President as soon as possible after the election takes place.
- L8. The Honorary Members to serve on Council must be elected by an electronic vote by the whole body of Honorary Members as managed by the Secretary at least 3 months in advance of the World Congress of Soil Science. They remain as representatives of Honorary Members on Council until the next WCSS and cannot be re-elected.

OTHER REGULATIONS

M. Finance and Subscriptions

- M1. 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 will 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 7.2 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.

- M2. An outside auditor must be selected by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer must prepare accounts for each calendar year and send them for audit. The audited accounts must be integrated into a time course report by the Budget and Finance Committee, and this must be published on the IUSS website.
- M3. For Full Members, at entry, the adhering organization from each country must 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 will be due at the beginning of each calendar year. The Executive Committee must 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 must develop the subscription fees as defined in the Bye-Laws.
- M4. The Council must set the Individual Member and Sustaining Member subscription fees.

N. Changes to the Statutes

- N1. Council can only effect changes in these Statutes, on a 2/3 majority of voting members present at the Council meeting in person or virtually. The proposed changes must have been publicized to the Council Members at least 30 days before the vote.
- N2. A new or revised Statute must come into force on a date decided by Council, which must be as soon as possible after the publication of the results of a positive vote.

O. Bye-Laws

- O1. 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.
- O2. Changes to the Bye-Laws can be made by a simple majority vote of the Council on a formal motion during the Council meetings in person or virtually.
- O3. A new or revised Bye-Law must come into effect on a date decided by Council, which must be as soon as possible after the publication of the results of a positive vote.

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.

Q. Secretariat

- Q1 The IUSS administration will be handled by a professional secretariat, which tasks in its broadest sense include administration and communication and its activities are detailed in the Bye-Laws.