

COMPILATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE IUFRO ENLARGED BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

10 December 2022

The following Terms of Reference for the IUFRO Enlarged Board Members and the representatives to IUFRO International Council were approved by the IUFRO Board at the 61st Enlarged Board Meeting held on 19-20 September, 2022 in Vienna, Austria (EBM Motion 6).

The Terms of Reference include references to IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations (2022) and cover the following positions and roles:

- IUFRO President;
- IUFRO Vice-Presidents;
- Division Co-Coordiators and Deputy Division Coordinators;
- Task Force Coordinators;
- President's Nominees; and
- International Council representatives.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IUFRO PRESIDENT

The President:

- Supervises and guides the activities of IUFRO,
- Represents IUFRO vis-à-vis official bodies or third parties as and when required
- Presides over the Congress, meetings of the International Council, the Board and the Management Committee.
- Nominates the President's Nominees for Board approval.
- Receives reports from Vice-Presidents about their activities on a regular basis.
- Reports to the IUFRO Board.

ARTICLE VII: Board (*IUFRO Statutes*)

Composition

- 7 The voting Board is composed of the President, who only votes to break a tie, two Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President (ex officio, i.e. by virtue of office or position), the Division Co-Coordiators, the IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative, and up to five President's Nominees (PN). President's Nominees will be selected by the incoming President-elect, with approval of the International Council, to strive for a regional, gender and scientific balance amongst Board members and their tasks will be approved by the Board. (...)
- 8 With the President's agreement, the members of the Board may be represented by an appropriate substitute in a Board meeting.
- 9 The President may invite observers to participate in the meetings. In accordance with contractual agreements, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) have observer status on the Board.
- 10 The President, the Vice-Presidents, President's Nominees and Division Co-Coordiators are elected by the International Council, based on the recommendation by the Board (see also Statutes Article VI.1.5).
- 11 The period of office of all Board members, except the Executive Director (see also Statutes Article X.6) and the Coordinators of the Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives, begins on the first day after the IUFRO World Congress and ends with the last day of the next World Congress. With the exception of the President and the Vice-Presidents all these members may be re-elected to a second term of office if this is necessary to ensure continuity, but no elected member may be re-elected for a third term in the same post.
- 12 If during the period between Congresses the President or a Vice-President leaves his/her office, the Board will recommend their replacement to be ratified by the International Council.

Procedure

- 14 The Board normally meets whenever a Congress is in session and at least on an annual basis between Congresses. Additional Board meetings may be convened at the President's discretion or by requests submitted by at least one-third of the Board's voting members.
- 16 Special Committees can be established by the President with approval of the Board to support the Board in its tasks and functions (...).

ARTICLE VII: President (*IUFRO Statutes*)

Function

- 1 The President presides over the Congress, meetings of the International Council, and the Board. When voting is tied on any issue, the President casts the deciding vote.
- 2 The President is responsible for the funds of the Union, subject to provisions of Articles VII.2 and X.7. He/she can designate the Executive Director to sign legally binding contracts subject to legal power of attorney.
- 3 Between meetings of the Congress, he/she makes any necessary decisions, as far as possible with the agreement of the Board and subject to confirmation by the International Council, if the Statutes so require.

- 4 The President is endowed with all other powers necessary to ensure the operation and representation of the Union.
- 5 The President is elected by the International Council and keeps it informed of important matters affecting the Union.
- 6 The President represents the Union vis-à-vis official bodies or third parties. General representation, without authorization to sign legally binding agreements, can be designated by the President.
- 7 The President designates one of the Vice-Presidents or another Board member to act in his/her place when necessary.
- 8 The President appoints the Executive Director with approval of the Board. If there is a Deputy Executive Director, he/she is appointed by the President with the agreement of the Executive Director and the approval of the Board.

Term of office

- 9 The President's term of office begins on the first day after the IUFRO World Congress and ends with the last day of the next World Congress.
- 10 He/she is not eligible for re-election after serving a full term as President and serves the next full term as an Immediate Past President.
- 11 If for any reason the President is unable to carry out his/her duties, the Board appoints one of the two Vice-Presidents as President; if neither Vice-President is able to act, the Board appoints a President from among its Members. The International Council must ratify this appointment.

ARTICLE XIII: Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives (*IUFRO Statutes*)

- 1 Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives may be established and terminated by the President, subject to Board approval.

SECTION VI: President (*Internal Regulations*)

(Statutes Article VIII)

- 1 In guiding the Union, the President chairs the International Council, the Board and the Management Committee, and is an ex officio member of all other Board Committees.
- 2 The President serves as Chair of IUFRO Congresses.
- 3 The President is responsible for liaison and relations with other international or national organizations.
- 4 The President oversees the preparation and publication of the Annual Report of IUFRO's activities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IUFRO VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Vice-President responsible for Divisions:

- Supervises and guides the activities of the IUFRO Divisions.
- Receives reports from IUFRO Divisions about their activities on a regular basis.
- Is a member of the IUFRO Voting Board, Management Committee and the Congress Scientific Committee.
- Reports to the President and to the IUFRO Board.

The Vice-President responsible for IUFRO Task Forces:

- Supervises and guides the activities of IUFRO Task Forces.
- Ensures that activities of IUFRO Task Forces are consistent with IUFRO's Strategy, and reports on those activities to the Management Committee and Board.
- Encourages all IUFRO Task Forces to publish synthesis reports and other scientific publications, based on the work of the individual Task Forces, and appropriately acknowledge IUFRO in these publications.
- Solicits information on and provides advice to the IUFRO Task Forces.
- Communicates with the IUFRO Management Committee important policy topics arising from the work of Task Forces.
- Is a member of the IUFRO Voting Board, Management Committee and the Congress Scientific Committee.
- Reports to the President and to the IUFRO Board.

ARTICLE VII: *Board (IUFRO Statutes)*

Composition

- 7 The voting Board is composed of the President, who only votes to break a tie, two Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President (*ex officio, i.e. by virtue of office or position*), the Division Co-ordinators, the IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative, and up to five President's Nominees (PN). (...)
- 10 The President, the Vice-Presidents, President's Nominees and Division Co-ordinators are elected by the International Council, based on the recommendation by the Board (see also Statutes Article VI.1.5).
- 11 The period of office of all Board members, except the Executive Director (see also Statutes Article X.6) and the Coordinators of the Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives, begins on the first day after the IUFRO World Congress and ends with the last day of the next World Congress. With the exception of the President and the Vice-Presidents all these members may be re-elected to a second term of office if this is necessary to ensure continuity, but no elected member may be re-elected for a third term in the same post.
- 12 If during the period between Congresses the President or a Vice-President leaves his/her office, the Board will recommend their replacement to be ratified by the International Council.

ARTICLE IX: *Vice-Presidents (IUFRO Statutes)*

Function

- 1 Vice-Presidents are responsible for the coordination and communication with the Divisions and with Task Forces. One of the Vice-Presidents acts for the President if the latter is unable to serve.

Term of office

- 2 Vice-Presidents are elected by the International Council.
- 3 Their term of office begins on the first day after the IUFRO World Congress and ends with the last day of the next World Congress.
- 4 They are not eligible for re-election as a Vice-President if they have served a full term in their position.
- 5 If for any reason a Vice-President is unable to carry out his/her duties or if he/she has to assume the Presidency, under Article VIII.11 of the Statutes, the Board appoints an alternate Vice-President from among its Members to serve until the end of the term. The International Council must ratify this appointment.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DIVISION CO-COORDINATORS AND DEPUTY DIVISION COORDINATORS

The Division Co-Coordinators:

Division of duties between two Co-Coordinators will be determined and agreed upon by Division Co-Coordinators at the start of the Board term.

Both Division Co-Coordinators are expected to:

1. Perform the tasks as specified in ARTICLE XI (IUFRO Statutes) and SECTION VII (IUFRO Internal Regulations).
2. Act as opinion leaders in the field of research of their Division.
3. Report to the Vice-President for Divisions.

Among the tasks to be designated to either or both of the Division Co-Coordinators are to:

1. Encourage the RGs and WPs to prepare scientific publications based on the work of their units, and appropriately acknowledge IUFRO in these publications.
2. Be a member of relevant IUFRO committees (such as the Congress Scientific Committee and Honours and Awards Committee) or nominate any of the deputies to hold these functions.
3. Encourage RGs and WPs to keep their webpages up to date.
4. Remind RG and WP Coordinators to send to the IUFRO HQ minutes and/or proceedings of workshops or conferences they have organized or sponsored.
5. Monitor the activities of RGs and WPs and suggests termination of inactive RGs and WPs after three years.
6. Allocate sufficient time for both internal and external communication.
7. Actively communicate with the IUFRO President, Vice-President for Divisions and the IUFRO HQ on matters related to Divisional work.
8. Give special attention to networking within the Division
 - on policy issues related to its science programme,
 - across all Divisions on policy issues requiring multi-disciplinary science contributions and
 - outside IUFRO on policy issues related to the Division's science programme

The Deputy Division Coordinator:

1. Supports the Division Co-Coordinators in their work in jointly agreed-upon tasks.
2. Communicates with the Division Co-Coordinators and other Deputy Division Coordinators on a regular basis.
3. Strives to participate in the initial planning of RG and WP meetings and attend a selection of them.
4. Actively works on improving the communication in and between RGs, WPs and the Division.
5. Together with the Division Co-Coordinators:
 - Encourages the RGs and WPs to prepare scientific publications based on the work of their units, and appropriately acknowledge IUFRO in these publications
 - Encourages RGs and WPs to keep their web pages up to date.
 - Reminds RG and WP Coordinators to send to the IUFRO HQ minutes and/or proceedings of workshops or conferences they have organized or sponsored.
6. Reports to the Division Co-Coordinators.

ARTICLE VII: *Board (IUFRO Statutes)*

Composition

- 7 The voting Board is composed of the President, who only votes to break a tie, two Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President (*ex officio, i.e. by virtue of office or position*), the Division Co-Coordinators, the IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative, and up to five President's Nominees (PN). (...)

- 10 The President, the Vice-Presidents, President's Nominees and Division Co-Coordinators are elected by the International Council, based on the recommendation by the Board (see also Statutes Article VI.1.5).

Procedure

- 15 Decisions made during Board meetings, or by electronic ballot between Board meetings, require a simple majority of votes, provided that more than half of the voting members of the Board are present. Each Division Co-Coordinators will have 0.5 (one-half) votes; all other voting members of the Board will each have one vote. If one of the two Division Co-Coordinators is unable to attend a Board meeting, the other Co-Coordinator will have one full vote.

Enlarged Board

- 17 The Enlarged Board comprises all Board Members, Deputy Division Coordinators and the Deputy Executive Director.
- 20 Members of the Enlarged Board who do not belong to the Board do not vote.

ARTICLE XI: Divisions (IUFRO Statutes)

Function

- 1 The Union's field of scientific activity is distributed over a number of Divisions.
- 2 The main function of Divisions is to support researchers in collaborative work and provide an organizational link among Research Groups and associated Working Parties within their respective Divisions, and also between these Groups and the Board (See Statutes Article XII).

Composition

- 3 Each Division may have any number of Research Groups and Working Parties.

Procedure

- 4 Each Division is led by a team of two Division Co-Coordinators who are Members of the Board, and up to four Deputy Coordinators of whom preferably two should come from amongst the Coordinators of the Research Groups of the Division.
- 5 The number of Divisions and the broad research field of each is determined by the Board and approved by the International Council.
- 6 Each Division Co-Coordinator represents the Research Groups in his/her Division on the Board. The division of duties between the Division Co-Coordinators shall be determined and agreed upon by the Division Co-Coordinators.
- 7 Candidates for Division Co-Coordinators will normally be proposed by the Divisions concerned and will be elected by the International Council on the recommendation of the Board. At least one of the two Division Co-Coordinators must be female and/or from a region of the world currently under-represented in the voting Board.
- 8 Deputy Division Coordinators will be proposed by the Division Co-Coordinators in consultation with other officeholders in their Divisions and appointed by the Board.
- 9 Division Co-Coordinators and their Deputies hold office from the first day after the IUFRO World Congress until the last day of the next World Congress. If they have served one full term, they are eligible for only one more term in the same post; if they were appointed between Congresses to fill a vacancy, they are eligible for two full terms.

ARTICLE XII: Research Groups and Working Parties (IUFRO Statutes)

Procedure

- 6 Research Groups and Working Parties are established and terminated by the Board on the recommendation of the Divisions. The need for each Research Group and Working Party is continuously reviewed by the Division and proposals for formation, continuation, amendment or termination should be submitted to the Board by the Division Co-Coordinators.
- 7 Research Group Coordinators are appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Division Co-Coordinators following consultation with the respective Research Groups. They normally hold office until the end of the next World Congress and are normally eligible for a maximum of two full terms. Deputy Research Group Coordinators are appointed by the Division Co-Coordinators.

- 8 If a Research Group Coordinator is unable to carry out his/her duties, the corresponding Division Co-Coordinators will replace him/her by a Deputy Coordinator or another individual, after consultation with the respective Research Group and approval by the Board.
- 9 Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators of already existing Working Parties are normally elected by the Working Party members and approved by the Division Co-Coordinators. The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of a newly established Working Party are appointed by the Division Co-Coordinators. They normally hold office until the end of the next World Congress and are normally eligible for a maximum of two full terms.

SECTION VII: Divisions (Internal Regulations)

(Statutes Article XI)

- 1 There are nine Divisions, subdivided into Research Groups and Working Parties (...).
Division 1 – Silviculture
Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics
Division 3 – Forest Operations Engineering and Management
Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management
Division 5 – Forest Products
Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry
Division 7 – Forest Health
Division 8 – Forest Environment
Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics
- 2 **Division Co-Coordinators**
The main responsibilities of a Division Co-Coordinator are:
 - 2.1 To represent the Division's Research Groups on the Board.
 - 2.2 To facilitate the establishment and promote the activities of Research Groups and Working Parties and, subject to approval by the Board, to terminate, Research Groups or Working Parties within the Division.
 - 2.3 To coordinate the activities among Research Groups within the Division and between these Research Groups and other relevant IUFRO Units.
 - 2.4 To exercise such additional authority as may be delegated by the Board.
 - 2.5 To keep the Secretariat informed of changes in the Division structure and of officeholders.
- 3 Each Division will have up to four Deputy Division Coordinators appointed by the Board following a proposal by the Division Co-Coordinators. Preferably, two out of four Deputy Division Coordinators should come from amongst the Research Group Coordinators, and perform mutually agreed-upon duties and functions assigned by their Division Co-Coordinator.
- 4 If for any reason either of the Division Co-Coordinators are unable to fill their position effectively, the Board selects a replacement from among the Deputy Division Coordinators. If no Deputy Division Coordinator can assume those duties, the Board appoints a replacement for the Division Co-Coordinator and reports to the International Council. If necessary, a Deputy Division Coordinator can be replaced by the Board in agreement with the Division Co-Coordinators.
- 5 In a case where the Deputy Division Coordinator becomes the Division Co-Coordinator, a Research Group Coordinator can be nominated as a new Deputy Division Coordinator.
- 6 Division Co-Coordinators may not at the same time serve as a Research Group or as a Working Party Coordinator in their Division. However, a Deputy Division Coordinator may also serve as a Research Group or Working Party Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator. (See Internal Regulations Section VIII.)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TASK FORCE COORDINATORS

The Task Force Coordinator:

1. Is responsible for leading Task Force activities for a specified period of time (typically one Board term) based on the workplan and milestones approved by the Board at the time of establishment of the Task Force, or subsequently amended.
2. Is responsible for ensuring adequate financial resources for the planned TF activities.
3. Prepares scientific publications based on the activities of the Task Force, and ensures proper acknowledgement of IUFRO in such publications..
4. Prepares an annual report of TF activities to the Board.
5. Sends to the IUFRO HQ minutes and/or proceedings of workshops or conferences the TF has organized or sponsored.
6. Keeps the TF web page up to date
7. Prepares, at the termination of the Task Force, a final report about the results of the Task Force.
8. Gives special attention to communication within the Task Force.
9. Acts as opinion leader in the field of research of his/her Task Force.
10. Actively communicates with the IUFRO President, Vice-President for Task Forces and IUFRO HQ on policy matters related to the work of the TF.
11. Reports to the Board through the Vice-President responsible for Task Forces.
12. Steps down as Coordinator if a potential or actual conflict of interest (such as acting as a government negotiator on the issues in question) should arise.
13. Actively Communicates with the Vice-President responsible for Task Forces, about Task Force activities. The Vice-President responsible for Task Forces evaluates the level of activity on an annual basis based on these Terms of Reference and may recommend the continuation or termination of the TF to the Board.

ARTICLE XIII (IUFRO Statutes)

Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives

- 1 Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives may be established and terminated by the President, subject to Board approval.
 - 1.1 The aim of Task Forces is to initiate and strengthen interdisciplinary activities in specific areas. They usually also contribute to international processes and activities.
- 2 Coordinators of Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led International Initiatives are non-voting members of the Board.

SECTION V (Internal Regulations)

Board

- 7 **Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects, and IUFRO-led International Initiatives.**

In order to carry out functions of the Union that are beyond the scope or ability of any single Division or Research Group, the Board may establish a Task Force, a Special Programme or a Project, or an IUFRO-led International Initiative. A Coordinator of a Task Force, a Special Programme or a Project, or an IUFRO-led International Initiative will be responsible for specific programme activities during a specified period of time. (See also Statutes, Article XIII).

 - 7.1 The Board approves the appointment of Task Force Coordinators. Deputy Task Force Coordinators are appointed by the respective Task Force Coordinators. A Coordinator of a Task Force will report to the Board through the Vice-President responsible for Task Forces on its activities and will inform the Executive Director. Task Forces may be established for one or more years, and will normally be terminated prior to or at the end of a five-year inter-Congress period.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IUFRO PRESIDENT'S NOMINEES

The President's Nominee:

1. Is assigned specific activities for a specified period of time. The activities are based on tasks and responsibilities as agreed upon with the President.
2. Engages with relevant environmental NGOs (ENGOS) and other stakeholders in their respective regions. Responsibilities: identify thematic areas of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration; encourage the participation of experts from ENGOS and other stakeholders in the science collaboration within IUFRO.
3. Works to increase IUFRO membership, promote IUFRO meetings and other activities, and encourage participation of scientists in IUFRO, in their respective regions.
4. Works towards fostering and promoting IUFRO activities and collaboration in their respective regions, including facilitation of communications among member organizations.
5. Communicates updates on IUFRO activities to ICs in their respective regions. Motivates ICs to communicate with IUFRO members and facilitates their participation in IUFRO activities.
6. Prepares an annual report of his/her IUFRO activities to the Board.
7. Actively communicates with the IUFRO President and the IUFRO Executive Director especially on policy matters related to his/her work.
8. Actively communicates with and is supported by IUFRO HQ in fulfilling some of the tasks.
9. One of the President's Nominees will serve as Chair of the IUFRO Honours and Awards Committee. Responsibilities: Select members of the Committee; IUFRO award winners, including award winners at the IUFRO World Congress and recommend them to the Board. The IUFRO Secretariat supports the Chair in practical matters.
10. One President's Nominee is invited to be a member of the IUFRO Management Committee.
11. Is a member of the IUFRO Voting Board.
12. Reports to the President.

ARTICLE VII (IUFRO Statutes)

Board

Composition

- 7 The voting Board is composed of the President, who only votes to break a tie, two Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President (*ex officio, i.e. by virtue of office or position*), the Division Co-ordinators, the IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative, and up to five President's Nominees (PN). President's Nominees will be selected by the incoming President-elect, with approval of the International Council, to strive for a regional, gender and scientific balance amongst Board members and their tasks will be approved by the Board. (...). Members of the IUFRO voting Board cannot be representatives to IUFRO International Council.
- 8 With the President's agreement, the members of the Board may be represented by an appropriate substitute in a Board meeting.
- 10 The President, the Vice-Presidents, President's Nominees and Division Co-ordinators are elected by the International Council, based on the recommendation by the Board (see also Statutes Article VI.1.5).

SECTION V (Internal regulations)

Board

- 3 President's Nominees will have special tasks mutually agreed upon by the President and the President's Nominees with approval by the Board.
 - 3.1 Up to five President's Nominees are selected by the incoming President-elect and elected by the International Council based on the recommendation by the Board. They may come from any part of the world and any forest-related research discipline. One of the objectives of their membership is to achieve on the Board a more equitable representation of geography, gender, nationality and scientific discipline than might otherwise be the case.
 - 3.2 Terms of Reference for PNs are developed by the President and approved by the Board.
 - 3.3 If, for any reason, a President's Nominee is unable to fill the position effectively, the President, with the agreement of the Board, selects a replacement and reports the replacement to the International Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IUFRO INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The International Council representatives:

1. Serve as “ambassadors” of IUFRO in their respective countries
 - a. Represent IUFRO in forest-related meetings held in their respective countries;
 - b. Encourage forest-related research institutions in their respective countries that are not currently IUFRO members to establish contact with IUFRO and become members;
2. Strengthen the existing network of IUFRO member organizations and scientists in their respective countries
 - a. Regularly receive and further distribute to the country members information from the IUFRO President (via IUFRO HQ) and provide feedback to IUFRO;
 - b. Stimulate cooperation of scientists among the respective country’s member organizations and their involvement in the global IUFRO network;
3. Perform tasks as specified in Article VI (Statutes) and Section XI (Internal Regulations).

ARTICLE VI (IUFRO Statutes)

Function

- 1 The International Council (IC) is responsible for:
 - 1.1 Advising the President and the Board on major issues concerning IUFRO’s policy and strategy, on the basis of timely information received from the Board.
 - 1.2 Determining subscription rates and membership fees with the advice of the Board (See also Statutes Articles VII. 2 and XV. 2.).
 - 1.3 Electing its Chair who also becomes both IUFRO President and Chair of the IUFRO Board.
 - 1.4 Electing the Vice-Chairs who also become both Vice-Presidents of the Union and Vice-Chairs of the IUFRO Board.
 - 1.5 Electing all voting members of the IUFRO Board with the exception of the IUFRO Headquarters host country representative, who is approved by the Board. The Immediate Past President is an ex officio voting member of the Board.
 - 1.6 Deciding the place and approximate date of the next Congress.
 - 1.7 Making recommendations to governments and national or international organizations on any business relevant to the aims of the Union.
 - 1.8 Ratifying decisions made by the IUFRO Board as required by these Statutes.
 - 1.9 Deciding on changes in the Statutes.
 - 1.10 Performing such other functions as may be conferred upon it by the Statutes.
 - 1.11 Terminating the Union.
- 2 The International Council may delegate part of its powers to the IUFRO Board for a specified period of time.

Composition

- 3 Each country in which there is at least one Member Organization is entitled to nominate one representative and an alternate representative to the International Council, who are chosen by the Member Organizations of the Union in that country.
- 4 For designating the countries, the names of the States used by the International Science Council, ISC, are applied.
- 5 The creation and membership of the International Council are governed by following rules:
 - 5.1 A new International Council is appointed after each Congress.
 - 5.2 Following each Congress, the President, with assistance by the IUFRO Secretariat, immediately writes to the Member Organizations of each country asking them to nominate a representative and alternate representative to the International Council, pointing out that, if no definite nomination is received, the Member Organizations of a country will not have representation on the International Council. Members of the IUFRO Voting Board cannot be representatives to the IUFRO International Council.
 - 5.3 The Member Organizations of a country may change or terminate their representation on the

International Council at any time and such change becomes effective upon notification and acceptance by the President.

- 5.4 If there is doubt about a nomination, replacement or termination of representation, the President's decision is final.
- 5.5 For the purpose of establishing a majority for International Council decisions, non-represented countries will not be counted, unless they have previously granted a proxy to the President or his/her designated representative (See Statutes Article VI.11.3).
- 5.6 If the Member Organizations of a country do not name a representative to the International Council, the President, for the purpose of passing information and seeking advice, may presume the representative of that country to be the head of the Member Organization having the largest number of research scientists.

Procedure

- 6 The International Council meets when a Congress is in session or at other times if the need arises.
- 7 Meetings of the International Council outside the Congress may be called by the President in his/her capacity as the Chair of the International Council. The President may call such meetings for decision-making purposes physically or by mail or electronic ballot using the procedures defined in the Internal Regulations. This may be upon request of the Board, at least one-third of the International Council members, or by at least one-third of the Member Organizations.
- 8 The President may also consult the International Council in writing at any time.
- 9 Every Member Organization of the Union has the right to submit any individual proposal or to appeal against an action of the organs of the Union to the International Council and have its case explained before the International Council by its national representative. Proposals and appeals of this kind should be transmitted in advance to the President of the Union who will provide for their inclusion in the agenda of the next International Council meeting.
- 10 Dates and agenda of International Council meetings will be fixed by the President who must allow at least six weeks for the notification of all members and the distribution of all materials and documentation prior to any meeting or vote.
- 11 The voting procedure of the International Council is as follows:
 - 11.1 Any modification of the Statutes that is proposed to the International Council or the termination of the Union must be adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that more than a quarter of the members of the International Council cast a vote.
 - 11.2 Decisions not affecting a change in Statutes must be supported by a simple majority of International Council members who cast votes, provided that more than a quarter of the members of the International Council cast a vote.
 - 11.3 The President may authorize an International Council Member to nominate a substitute to attend the Council session and vote for him/her provided that the name of the substitute is given in writing to the President before the session. The substitute member will count towards the quorum.
 - 11.4 Each country represented in the International Council has one vote.
 - 11.5 The Union may be terminated only at a special meeting of the International Council called exclusively for this purpose.