

Proposal for changes to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure (RoP)

As considered by ISC Members at the 2021 extraordinary General Assembly
(1 – 5 February 2021)

Group I: Membership (categories and application)

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A) Proposed changes in Group I (in tracked changes)

Proposed new text is red and underlined

~~Proposed text for deletion is crossed out~~

In-session amendments are marked in blue

I.I Membership categories (Statutes 8 and 9)

8. Members shall normally adhere to the Council in one of the following categories:

Full Members

- i. Category 1: Scientific Unions, and Associations, and similar bodies, being international scientific bodies organizations¹ devoted to the practice and promotion of specific scientific activities in one or more disciplines and or areas of science and to their promotion.

[Foot note] ¹ For the purposes of these Statutes an international scientific organization is an institution that draws membership from several countries within a region or from countries across at least two regions, and whose members are held together by a formal agreement, constitution or similar instrument.

- ii. Category 2: Member Organisations, being Academies of Sciences, Research Councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing science a broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region, or territory or globally.

Affiliated Members

- iii. ~~Affiliated Members~~ Category 3: Other bodies, being other governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose affiliation with the Council is not covered by the Membership Categories above, or whose activities are in a field cognate to those of the Council. ~~Affiliated Members pay dues but have no voting rights.~~

9. A Member in good standing is defined as a Member which ~~has~~ has paid the ~~Membership~~ Membership dues for the previous three years or, in the case of a Member of less than three years' standing, has paid dues since joining the Council. ~~Member Unions, Associations and Organisations~~ Only Full Members in good standing are entitled to vote in the General Assembly and to present candidates to hold office. Affiliated Members in good standing are entitled only to present candidates to hold office.

I.II Membership applications (RoP 8.1 - 8.6)

8. Applications for Membership

8.1 All applications for ~~Membership~~ Membership of the Council must be addressed in writing to the ~~Secretary~~ President, and must be received by the Headquarters at least ~~2~~ two months in advance of the Governing Board meeting, at which they are to be considered.

8.2 Applications for ~~Membership~~ Membership must be accompanied by a copy of the ~~Statutes~~ Statutes of the applicant organization, and a signed statement that the applicant will comply with the Council's Statutes and Rules of Procedure and a letter explaining the motivations for the application.



8.3 (a) In the event of an application for membership in Category 1 by an international union, ~~or~~ association or similar body which was previously a part of an existing Member of the Council, the applicant should inform the relevant Member and seek its support before applying for membership.

(b) In the event of an application for membership in Category 2 by an organization in a country, region or territory which already has existing Member(s) of the Council, the applicant organization should inform the existing Member(s) and seek their support before applying for Membership.

~~8.4~~ 8.3 Upon the guidance of the Governing Board, the Headquarters shall approach the relevant Members of the Council to seek information as to the benefits to the Council of admitting the applicant. The Headquarters shall then ascertain if there is adequate support for the application from at least 12 Members, including at least three Members ~~Unions or Associations~~ of Category 1 and three Members ~~Organisations~~ of Category 2, by request to all Council Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate that Membership of how the adherence of a given organization ~~concerned~~ would enhance the Council's activities membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity, ~~after~~ upon receiving the ~~before-mentioned~~ said request, to ask for an electronic ballot ~~from~~ of all Members on the ~~M~~ membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.

~~8.4 All successful applications shall have effect from the conclusion of the session of the Governing Board at which they were agreed.~~

~~8.5 a) Applications for Affiliate Membership must be accompanied by a copy of the Statutes of the organisation, a signed statement that the applicant will comply with the Council's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and a statement motivating the reasons for the application.~~

8.5 b) The Headquarters shall transmit the application to the Members of Applications for affiliate membership shall be transmitted to the Governing Board, which shall decide whether to ask the Headquarters to ascertain if there is adequate support for the application from at least nine Members, including at least three Members ~~Unions or Associations~~ of Category 1 and three Members ~~Organisations~~ of Category 2, by request to all Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate that how Affiliate ~~M~~ membership of the organization concerned would enhance the Council's scientific activities membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity after receiving the ~~before-mentioned~~ said request to ask for an electronic ballot ~~from~~ of all Members on the ~~M~~ membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested, the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.

8.6 All successful applications shall have effect from the conclusion of the session of the Governing Board at which they were agreed.

I.III Related minor changes (Statute 15, RoP 1.1 and 2.7)

15. The General Assembly will vote with a different system for three different types of issues:

- i. Regarding voting on scientific strategy and activities: 'One Member, ~~One~~ Vote', whereby:
 - ~~e~~ Each Member ~~Organisation~~ of Category 1 shall have one vote. Each Member ~~Union or Association~~ will have a weighted vote equal to the total number of Members ~~Organisations~~ of Category 2 divided by the total number of Members ~~Unions and Associations~~ of Category 1, within the total ~~M~~ membership base.
 - Each Member of Category 2 shall have one vote.



- ii. Regarding voting on elections and other procedural matters:
- ~~e~~Each Member Organisation of Category 1 will have a weighted vote equal to the total number of votes by Members of Category 2 divided by the total number of Members of Category 1, within the total membership base.
 - Each Member of Category 2 shall have one vote, except in cases where there ~~are~~ is more than one Member ~~Organisation~~ of Category 2 representing the same country, territory or region as defined by the General Assembly, in which case the Members from that country, territory or region need to agree on a common voting position resulting in a single vote. Should there be no agreement amongst them, each Member ~~Organisation~~ of Category 2 shall have a proportion of that one vote. Exceptions to this voting rule may be agreed by a resolution of the General Assembly. ~~Each Member Union or Association will have a weighted vote equal to the total number of country, territory or region votes divided by the total number of Member Unions and Associations, within the total Membership base.~~
- 1.1 In sessions of the General Assembly a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 50 ~~percent~~ % of the voting Full ~~Members of each Membership Category.~~
- 2.7 The vote of each Full ~~Member Union or Association or Member Organisation~~ shall normally be cast at the meeting by the representative of that Member or by a proxy nominated by that Member. This nomination must be submitted in writing to the ~~Secretary~~ President prior to the session at which the proxy is to operate. If a Member is unable to designate a proxy to vote at the meeting, votes on those issues already on the Agenda (and not arising from the floor) may be submitted in writing to the ~~Secretary~~ President prior to the meeting.

B) Proposed changes in Group I (no tracked changes)

I.I Membership categories (Statutes 8 and 9)

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- ii. Category 2: Academies of sciences, research councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing a broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region, territory or globally.

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9. A Member in good standing is defined as a Member which has paid the membership dues for the previous three years or, in the case of a Member of less than three years' standing, has paid dues since joining the Council. Only Full Members in good standing are entitled to vote in the General Assembly and to present candidates to hold office. Affiliated Members in good standing are entitled only to present candidates to hold office.

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8.2 Applications for membership must be accompanied by a copy of the statutes of the applicant organization, a signed statement that the applicant will comply with the Council's Statutes and Rules of Procedure and a letter explaining the motivations for the application.

8.3 (a) In the event of an application for membership in Category 1 by an international union, association or similar body which was previously a part of an existing Member of the Council, the applicant should inform the relevant Member and seek its support before applying for membership.

(b) In the event of an application for membership in Category 2 by an organization in a country, region or territory which already has existing Member(s) of the Council, the applicant organization should inform the existing Member(s) and seek their support before applying for Membership.

8.4 Upon the guidance of the Governing Board, the Headquarters shall approach the relevant Members of the Council to seek information as to the benefits to the Council of admitting the applicant. The Headquarters shall then ascertain if there is adequate support for the application from at least 12 Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, by request to all Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate how the adherence of a given organization would enhance the Council's membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity, upon receiving the said request, to ask for an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.

8.5 Applications for affiliate membership shall be transmitted to the Governing Board, which shall decide whether to ask the Headquarters to ascertain if there is adequate support for the application from at least nine Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, by request to all Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate how Affiliate membership of the organization concerned would enhance the Council's membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity after receiving the said request to ask for an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested, the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.

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1.1 In sessions of the General Assembly a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 50 % of the voting Full Members.

2.7 The vote of each Full Member shall normally be cast at the meeting by the representative of that Member or by a proxy nominated by that Member. This nomination must be submitted in writing to the President prior to the session at which the proxy is to operate. If a Member is unable to designate a proxy to vote at the meeting, votes on those issues already on the agenda (and not arising from the floor) may be submitted in writing to the President prior to the meeting.