

CHAPTER II

TWENTY EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUSINESS SESSIONS

FIRST SESSION: Tuesday, 21 August 2012, 16:30-18:00

Chaired by Robert Williams, President of the IAU
China National Convention Centre, Beijing

1. Opening and Welcome

The President of the IAU, Prof. Robert Williams, welcomed the delegates and members to this first business session of the General Assembly. The President invited the General Secretary, Dr. Ian Corbett, to start the business session.

2. Representatives of IAU National Members

The General Secretary listed the representatives of the National Members (IAU member countries). They are given in the table at the end of this Chapter.

The columns list separately:

- the National Members
- the dues category
- the number of votes attached to each National Representative:
 - (a) for ordinary votes, membership,, etc.
 - (b) for financial matters

Note: “Interim” National Members, or National Members in arrears of their dues, do not vote, even if they have appointed a Representative (countries indicated by a astrisk).

- the National Representatives, in their capacity to vote the budget and other issues on behalf of the National Members;
- the National Representative for Finance, in their capacity to discuss and vote on financial matters, as well as to propose nominations and elect the Finance Committee (formerly known as Finance Sub-Committee) for the triennium;
- the National Representatives for Membership Nominations, in they capacity to discuss and vote on individual membership issues, as well as to propose nominations and elect the Special Nominating Committee (SNC), and the Membership Committee.

For each National Member, the first line gives the names of the Representatives present during the first week of the GA, the second line, if present, gives the names of the Representatives present during the second week of the GA.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The delegates approved the agenda of the meeting as published in the Program Book.

4. Reminder of voting rules

The President reminded the delegates and the members about the voting rules, depending on the nature of the vote.

5. Appointment of Official Tellers

The Official Tellers were duly approved.

6. Admission of New National Members to the Union

The following new National Members were unanimously admitted to the Union:

Country: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Category: Interim

Adhering Organization: Pyongyang Astronomical Observatory, Academy of Sciences

Country: Ethiopia

Category: I

Adhering Organization: Ethiopian Space Science Society

Country: Kazakhstan

Category: I

Adhering Organization: National Center of Space Research and Technology

7. Revisions of Statutes and Bye-Laws

The revisions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws, in particular those relevant to the changes introduced in the Division Structure, were presented by the General Secretary.

The revised Statutes and Bye-Laws are presented in Chapter V of these *Transactions*.

8. Report of the Executive Committee (2009-2012)

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by the General Secretary, Dr. Ian Corbett, and is presented in Chapter XX of these *Transactions*.

9. Report of the Special Nominating Committee

Nominations of the IAU Executive Committee for the triennium 2012-2015:

President-Elect

Assistant General Secretary

Vice-President

Vice-President

Vice-President

Silvia Torres Peimbert (Mexico)

Piero Benvenuti (Italy)

Renée Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)

Xiao-Wei Liu (China Nanjing)

Dina Prialnik (Israel)

The Special Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for IAU members for the Officers and Members of the IAU Executive Committee for the triennium 2012-2015:

President	Norio Kaifu (Japan)
President-Elect	Silvia Torres Peimbert (Mexico)
General Secretary	Thierry Montmerle (France)
Assistant General Secretary	Piero Benvenuti (Italy)
Vice-President	Matthew Colless (Australia)
Vice-President	Renée Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)
Vice-President	Xiao-Wei Liu (China Nanjing)
Vice-President	Jan Palouš (Czech Republic)
Vice-President	Dina Prialnik (Israel)
Vice-President	Marta Rovira (Argentina)
Adviser	Robert Williams (USA)
Adviser	Ian Corbett (UK)

10. Presentation of Proposed Changes to Divisional Structure

The Assistant General Secretary, Dr. Thierry Montmerle, presented proposed changes to the IAU Divisional structure, endorsed by the Division Presidents and the Executive Committee, in the form of a Resolution put to the General Assembly, as follows:

RESOLUTION B4

on the restructuring of the IAU Divisions,

proposed by the IAU Executive Committee

The XXVIII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union, noting

(a) that both the IAU and astronomy as a whole have evolved considerably since the current Divisions were introduced in 1994 and formally adopted in 1997, and that it is therefore appropriate to consider re-optimising the Divisional Structure,

(b) the report and recommendations of the Task Group established by the Executive Committee to examine the case for restructuring the Divisions, and the Executive Committee response to these recommendations,

(c) that the Commissions, Working Groups and other bodies under the Divisions may also require reform,

(d) that the implementation of the Strategic Plan through the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) and other associated programmes requires the Executive Committee to establish appropriate oversight and governance provisions for all Astronomy for Development activities, including the Office of Astronomy for Development, ensuring a strong link between these activities, the Divisions, and the Executive Committee.

approves

the proposal of the Executive Committee to restructure the Divisions as follows:

- Division A Space and Time Reference Systems
- Division B Facilities, Technologies, & Data Science
- Division C Education, Outreach, & Heritage
- Division D High Energies & Fundamental Physics
- Division E Sun & Heliosphere
- Division F Planetary Systems & Bioastronomy

Division G Stars & Stellar Physics
 Division H Interstellar Matter & Local Universe
 Division J Galaxies & Cosmology

11. Proposal to host the XXX General Assembly in 2018

One proposal was received from Austria to hold the XXX General Assembly in 2018, with a venue in Vienna. This proposal was presented by the NCA of Austria. It was approved by the Executive Committee at its 91th meeting, Part II, on Aug.23, and the decision announced at the Second business meeting of the General Assembly.

Closure of Session

There being no other business items to discuss, the President declared the session closed.

Representatives of National Members (see Sect. 2)

National Member	Dues Category	Votes (a, b)	National Representatives	Finance Committee Nominations	Membership & SNC Nominations
Argentina	II	1, 3	Marta Rovira	Marta Rovira	Marta Rovira
Armenia	I	1, 2	Areg Mickaelian	Areg Mickaelian	Areg Mickaelian
Australia	IV	1, 5	John Dickey	John Dickey	John Dickey
Austria	II	1, 3	Gerhard Hensler	Gerhard Hensler	Gerhard Hensler
Belgium	IV	1, 5	Conny Aerts	Conny Aerts	Conny Aerts
Bulgaria	I	1, 2	-	-	-
Brazil	III	1, 4	Daniela Lazzaro	Daniela Lazzaro	Beatriz Barbuy
Canada	V	1, 6	Samar Safi-Harb Greg Fahlman	Samar Safi-Harb	Greg Fahlman
Chile	II	1, 3	Patricio Rojo	Patricio Rojo	Patricio Rojo
China Nanjing	VI	1, 7	Xiangqun CUI	Zhanwen HAN	Ji YANG
China Taipei	II	1, 3	Yi-Jehng KUAN	Yi-Jehng KUAN	Yi-Jehng KUAN
Costa Rica	interim	0, 0			
Croatia	I	1, 2	-	-	-
Czech Rep.	III	1, 4	Petr Hadrava	Cyril Ron	Richard Wunch
Denmark	III	1, 4	Johannes Andersen	Birgitta Nordström	Johannes Andersen
Estonia	I	1, 2	Laurits Leedjärv	Laurits Leedjärv	Laurits Leedjärv
Finland	II	1, 3	Esko Valtaoja	Esko Valtaoja	Esko Valtaoja
France	VII	1, 8	Daniel Rouan	Daniel Rouan	Daniel Hestroffer
Germany	VII	1, 8	Matthias Steinmetz	Matthias Steinmetz	Matthias Steinmetz
Greece	III	1, 4	V. Charmandaris	V. Charmandaris	V. Charmandaris
Honduras	interim	0, 0			
Hungary	II	1, 3	L. van Driel-Gesztelyi Laszlo Viktor Tóth	L. van Driel-Gesztelyi	Laszlo Viktor Tóth
Iceland	I	1, 2	-	-	-
India	V	1, 6	Rajesh Kochlar	Rajesh Kochlar	Rajesh Kochlar
Indonesia	I	0, 0			
Iran	I	0, 0			
Ireland	I	1, 2	Paul Callanan	Paul Callanan	Paul Callanan
Israel	III	1, 4	Shay Zucker	Shay Zucker	Shay Zucker
Italy	VII	1, 8	Ginevra Trinchieri	Ginevra Trinchieri	Ginevra Trinchieri

National Member	Dues Category	Votes (a, b)	National Representatives	Finance Committee Nominations	Membership & SNC Nominations
Japan	VII	1, 8	Sadanori Okamura	Masatoshi Ohishi	Sadanori Okamura
Korea, Ref. of	II	1, 3	Myung Gyoon LEE	Myung Gyoon LEE	Myung Gyoon LEE
Latvia	I	0, 0			
Lebanon	interim	0, 0			
Lithuania*	I	0, 0	G. Tautvaisiene	G. Tautvaisiene	G. Tautvaisiene
Malaysia	I	1, 2	-	-	-
Mexico	III	1, 4	Hector Bravo-Alfaro	Hector Bravo-Alfaro	Hector Bravo-Alfaro
Mongolia	interim	0, 0			
Morocco*	I	0, 0	Benkhaldoun Zouhair	Benkhaldoun Zouhair	Benkhaldoun Zouhair
Netherlands	V	1, 6	R.A.M.J Wijers	Lex Kaper	Lex Kaper
New Zealand	II	1, 3	Grant Christie	Grant Christie	Grant Christie
Nigeria	I	1, 2	-	-	-
			Okere Bonaventure		
Norway	II	1, 3	Oddbjørn Engvold	Oddbjørn Engvold	Oddbjørn Engvold
Panama	interim	0, 0			
Peru	I	0, 0			
Philippines	I	1, 2	Cynthia P. Celebre	Cynthia P. Celebre	Cynthia P. Celebre
Poland	IV	1, 5	Andrzej Udalski	Andrzej Udalski	Andrzej Udalski
Portugal	II	1, 3	-	-	-
Romania	I	1, 2	-	-	-
Russian Fed.	V	1, 6	Dmitrij Bisikalo	Nikolai Samus	Dmitrij Bisikalo
Saudi Arabia	I	0, 0			
Serbia	I	1, 2	Zoran Knežević	Zoran Knežević	Zoran Knežević
Slovakia	I	1, 2	Augustin Skopal	Augustin Skopal	Augustin Skopal
South Africa	III	1, 4	Patricia Whitelock	Patricia Whitelock	Patricia Whitelock
Spain	IV	1, 5	Rafael Bachiller	Rafael Bachiller	Rafael Bachiller
Sweden	III	1, 4	Dainis Dravins	Dainis Dravins	Dainis Dravins
Switzerland	III	1, 4	Georges Meylan	Georges Meylan	Georges Meylan
Tajikistan	I	1, 2	Subhon Ibadov	Subhon Ibadov	Subhon Ibadov
Thailand	I	1, 2	Utane Sawangwit	Utane Sawangwit	Utane Sawangwit
			B. Soonthornthum		
Turkey	I	1, 2	Talat Saygaç	Talat Saygaç	Talat Saygaç
Ukraine	III	1, 4	Peter P. Berczik	Peter P. Berczik	Peter P. Berczik
UK	VII	1, 8	Mike Cruise	Mike Cruise	Mike Cruise
United States	X	1, 11	Kathie Mathae-Bailey Ed Guinan	Kevin Marvel	Sally Heap
Vatican	I	1, 2	Christopher Corbally	Jose Funes	Guy Consolmagno
Venezuela	I	1, 2	Gustavo Bruzual	Gustavo Bruzual	Gustavo Bruzual