

Report of the 28th IUSSP General Assembly

Monday 30 October 2017 13h-13h30

and

Wednesday 1st November 2017 19h-20h30

West Ballroom, CTICC,
Cape Town, South Africa

1st General Assembly meeting, Monday, October 30

Given the proposed revision of the Constitution, it was necessary to convene a short meeting of the general assembly on Monday, October 30 to formally appoint the members of a committee to examine the proposed amendments, as stipulated in the constitution. The thirty members present unanimously elected the following five members to the committee: Terence Hull (Australia), Jane Menken (United States), Maria-Coleta de Oliveira (Brazil), Elisabeth Omoluabi (Nigeria), Jacques Véron (France).

2nd (main) General Assembly, Wednesday 1st November

AGENDA

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda. Anastasia Gage, IUSSP President
2. Report of the Secretary General and Treasurer on the activities and finances of the IUSSP, France Meslé
3. Approval of the report
4. Approval of the candidates elected by the members for the IUSSP Nomination Committee
5. Approval of IUSSP's affiliation to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.
6. Amendments to the constitution
 - General presentation. Tom Moultrie
 - Report of the Review Committee
 - Vote on the amendments
7. General Discussion

Present: Approximately 80 members

1. Welcome address and adoption of the agenda.

IUSSP President Anastasia Gage welcomed members of the 28th IUSSP General Assembly. According to the constitution of the Union, a General Assembly must meet once every four years at the International Population Conference. Anastasia Gage presented the agenda. The General Assembly adopted the agenda by a show of hands.

2. Report on the activities and financial situation of the Union

France Meslé presented the report on the activities and financial situation of the Union for the 2013-2016 period along with the independent auditor's report.

3. Approval of the report

The General Assembly unanimously approved the 2013-2016 report and financial results.

4. Approval of the candidates elected by the members for the IUSSP Nomination Committee

Anastasia Gage explained that the constitution of the association currently stipulates that the Nominating Committee is elected by the members at the General Assembly. The Committee should consist of six members from six different countries. The Past President chairs this Committee when it meets to select candidates for election to the Council. In the proposed amendments, which will be considered under agenda item 6, this election will take place electronically so that all members can vote. To anticipate these new provisions, in this transition period between old and new constitution, the Council organized a preliminary electronic vote so all members could participate in the election of Committee members. Anastasia Gage proposed that the GA ratify the election results. The following were unanimously elected:

Alex Chika Ezeh (Nigeria), Brigida Garcia (Mexico), Terence Hull (Australia), Nico Keilman (Netherlands), Susheela Singh (United States), Laurent Toulemon (France).

5. Approval of IUSSP Affiliation to Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

In the current constitution, it is stipulated that the affiliation of the IUSSP to any other organization recommended by the Council must be validated by the General Assembly. Tom LeGrand presented the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, a global network that brings together governments, the private sector and civil society organizations to promote the Data Revolution in achieving sustainable development goals. This affiliation will enable IUSSP to participate fully in this network as part of its own data revolution activities. The affiliation was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

6. Amendments to the constitution

Tom Moultrie presented the amendments to the constitution proposed by twenty-one members, including all the members of the Council. He explained that at its first meeting in 2014, the IUSSP Council had noted a number of provisions in the constitution on membership dues and grace period for non-renewal of membership that no longer fit with actual practice. The Council commissioned a committee, composed of France Meslé, Tom Moultrie, Edith Pantelides and Paul Monet from the Secretariat, to propose a revision of the constitution to resolve these inconsistencies. In the process of working on the constitution, the committee quickly realized that one change led to another and in the end resulted in a rather substantial proposal to revise the constitution. The Board approved this revision at its April 2017 meeting. After receiving the number of necessary supporters mandated in the current constitution, the proposal was circulated to members. A first general assembly held on Monday, October 30 elected a committee of five to review the proposed changes. This committee issued a report supporting the proposed revisions and suggesting some minor changes. It is now up to this General Assembly to vote on these amendments. A two-thirds majority of those present is required to move on to the final stage of the process, which will end with a vote of all members by a simple majority.

Tom Moultrie then summarized the main changes introduced:

- A simplification of the language.
- A rearrangement of the order of clauses.
- The addition of by-laws in which a number of practical provisions have been transferred, allowing the IUSSP Council to revise if necessary, to enable the association to adapt quickly to changing conditions and circumstances.
- Clauses adapted to streamline nominating and voting procedures via electronic means
- A simplification of the Council structure (no longer membership-size dependent)
- Committee of nominations procedures streamlined (no need for in-person meeting)
- Transfer to the IUSSP Council the power to approve IUSSP affiliations with other organizations.
- The possibility for other organizations (for example regional population associations) to affiliate with the IUSSP, without voting rights.

He presented the recommendations of the Review Committee, all of which were introduced in the final version put to the vote.

Anastasia Gage then invited the audience to react to this proposal to revise the Constitution. Some participants expressed reservations about the inclusion in the Constitution of the possibility for other organizations to join IUSSP. It was thus asked to specify the type of organizations involved. IUSSP Bureau members have tried to reassure the audience by re-reading precisely the proposed text:

"National or regional population associations, research and training institutions, university departments and other such bodies engaged in the study of the population may seek affiliation with the Union. Affiliated institutions have no voting rights in the affairs of the Union, which is an association of individual members, but may be consulted by the Council for advice on the scientific orientation of the Union and other relevant affairs. The Council shall be responsible for granting affiliation and determining dues and benefits of affiliated organisations."

It was explained that the IUSSP Council would report annually to the members the list of any new affiliated organizations, and this would be included in the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General.

The proposal to amend the Constitution was put to a vote and accepted by 78 votes in favour and two abstentions.

7. General Discussion

Anastasia Gage opened the general discussion on any topic of interest to members. Nobody asked to speak, so she closed the 28th IUSSP General Assembly at 8:30 pm