

2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
27th-28th October 2008 – Stellenbosch, South Africa
DRAFT Resolutions

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Minutes of the 26th General Assembly and Executive Committee Meetings 2009 and 2010

The 27th General Assembly approves the minutes of the 26th CODATA General Assembly. Further, it approves the recommendations from Executive Committee Meetings 2009 and 2010 as contained in the working documents discussed by the Delegates.

New Co-opted Member: ICSU World Data System, Scientific Committee

Having received notice of approval of the application from ICSU, the 27th General Assembly unanimously approves the application of the ICSU, World Data System Scientific Committee to become an official Co-opted Member of CODATA.

Finance

Reserve Fund

The 27th General Assembly directs the Treasurer to explore the possibility of putting in place a special reserve fund for emergency operations as they may arise. The conditions for accessing the fund should be discussed with the auditor in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report

The 27th CODATA General Assembly approves the audited accounts of 2008 and 2009 as presented to the Delegates by the Treasurer.

Approval of the Budget for 2010 and 2011

The 27th General Assembly approves the draft budgets for 2010 and 2011 as presented by the Treasurer, noting that the budgets are provisional and subject to amendment.

(It was noted that budget projections should be prepared, if feasible, on a four year basis as opposed to the current practice which is on a two year basis.)

Dues 2011 and 2012

The 27th General Assembly agrees that the inflationary measure used to calculate the dues for 2011 and 2012 be the "all items" estimate of inflation for the "major seven" countries, as published in the Main Economic Indicators by the OECD two years previous.

US\$/Euro Exchange Rate

Given the current economic climate and the fact that the Secretariat is located in a Euro zone, it is proposed that as in the previous two years the CODATA dues for 2011 and 2012 be expressed in Euros, using a US dollar/ Euro exchange rate of 1.35:1, being the average exchange rate for the last four years.

This issue will be re-visited at the 28th CODATA General Assembly for further discussion and decision.

Resolution: Evaluation of level of Dues paid by Members

The 27th CODATA General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to appoint a Dues Committee to evaluate and analyse the current dues structure of CODATA. It recommends that the Dues Committee proposes a structure that is fair, objective, transparent and takes into consideration the impact of the current economic situations of the paying Members of CODATA. The findings and recommendations of the Dues Committee will be presented to the 28th CODATA General Assembly for discussion and approval.

Constitutional Amendments

Resolution: Constitutional Amendments

The 27th CODATA General Assembly discussed the proposed amendments to the Constitution pertaining to Statutes 3.1 e) and 6.2 as presented by the Vice-President, Gordon Wood. It approves the amendments to the Constitution as set out hereunder:

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3.1 e) *Co-opted Members. An organization involved wholly or predominantly in work covered by the Mission of CODATA and which is associated with or affiliated to ICSU or one of its Unions may become, with approval of the General Assembly, a Co-opted Member of CODATA.*

6.2 *Between General Assemblies of CODATA, the responsibility for transacting the business of CODATA is vested in the Executive Committee. In its transactions, the Executive Committee requires a quorum of one-half of its members. Decisions shall be by a simple majority of the number of votes cast. The Chair shall have a casting vote.*

Task Groups

A general discussion took place regarding CODATA Task Groups. One of the key issues arising from the discussions was the alignment of the Task Groups with the CODATA Strategic Plan. It was suggested that this consideration should be included in future Calls for Task Groups. Discussions also took place on the Task Group application process. Among the questions raised was whether CODATA should consider identifying specific data issues and calling for Task Groups to address these issues. It was noted that the Working Group mechanism currently in place does allow for this.

Task Group Application Process

The 27th CODATA General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to review the current process in place for soliciting Task Groups. Once the review is complete, the General Assembly Delegates should be consulted for their input and comments. The timing of this review should be such that any recommendations concerning the process could be put in place in time for the next call for Task Group proposals.

The Following Task Groups were approved for the period 2011-2012:

- Anthropometric Data and Engineering
- Data at Risk
- Data Citation Standards and Practices
- Data Sources for Sustainable Development in SADC Countries
- eGY Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability
- Exchangeable Materials Data Representation to Support Scientific Research and Education
- Fundamental Physical Constants
- Global Information Commons for Science Initiative-EU Activities
- Global Roads Data Development
- Polar Year Data Policy and Management
- Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries (PASTD)

(It was recommended that each approved Task Group should be encouraged to nominate at least one young scientist in its list of members.)

CODATA Officers and Ordinary Members elected by the 27th CODATA General Assembly

President:

Huadong GUO, (2010-2014) (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China)

Past-President:

Krishan LAL (India) (2010-2012)

Vice-Presidents:

1st Vice-President: Takashi GOJOBORI (Japan) (2010-2014)

2nd Vice-President: Fedor KUZNETSOV (Russia) (2010-2014)

Ordinary Members 2010 – 2012

Niv AHITUV (Israel)

John BROOME (Canada)

Dora Ann Lange CANHOS (Brazil)

Antony COOPER (South Africa)

Françoise GENOVA (France, WDS, SC)

Sara GRAVES, (USA)

Hiro-o HAMAGUCHI (Japan)

Mark THORLEY (UK)

(The positions of Secretary General and Treasurer were not open for election.)

Two Vice-Presidents

The 27th General Assembly agreed that, for the period, 2010-2014, two Vice-Presidents will be elected and, furthermore, that the ballot will provide for indicating which candidate should be First and Second Vice-President.

Working Groups

Documenting, Archiving and Open Access to Disaster Information

The 27th General Assembly agreed that the existing Working Group on “*Documenting, Archiving and Open access to Disaster information*” should be extended for a further period of one year.

Young Scientists

The 27th General Assembly applauds the activities of the young scientists within the scientific program of the 22nd International CODATA Conference. Further it extends the Young Scientist Working Group for an additional period of two years.

Pursuant to Resolution 5 of the 2010 Executive Committee Meeting, the 27th General Assembly encourages all National Members to appoint one or more young scientist to their National Committee at the next intake of new members. It further encourages that these young scientists participate at the 23rd International CODATA Conference.

Membership

The 27th General Assembly directs the President to appoint an *ad hoc* Committee to work with the Secretariat to increase CODATA membership over the next two years. This includes developing a strategy and plan within the next three months and then engaging in implementing the plan to focus on the objective of increasing membership.

Funding

The 27th General Assembly directs the President to appoint an *ad hoc* Committee tasked with developing a strategy and plan, over the next two years, for increasing CODATA funding. This should include development of a business model and identification of possible new and modified sources of income. The Committee will work with the Secretariat to implement the strategy.

Strategic Plan Resolution

The 27th General Assembly instructs the next Executive Committee to carry out a review and refreshment of the 2006-2012 CODATA Strategic plan including a review of deliverables to date. In addition, it instructs the Executive Committee, as a major priority, to review CODATA Membership and CODATA prospective Membership requirements and to develop a new strategic plan for 2013 onwards for presentation at the 2012 CODATA General Assembly.

Data Science Journal

In recognizing the excellent analysis and report of the CODATA Data Science Journal Committee led by Huadong GUO, the 27th General Assembly directs the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, to take action to implement the administrative recommendations in section 1 of the report. Further

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the General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to consider the additional recommendations in section 5 of the report and recommend not only those which should be implemented but how and when.

Education Training in Data Management

Recognizing the excellent discussion paper prepared by the Education and Training Committee led by Michel Sabourin, the 27th General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to take the necessary steps to develop recommendations for CODATA in the areas of education and training, taking into account related business considerations and opportunities for CODATA.

Recommendation to the Executive Committee to consider the establishment of a New Working Group addressing ethical issues in data science.

The 27th General Assembly recognizes the growing discussion on ethical issues in data science and appreciates the commitment of several individuals to elaborate a recommendation for CODATA in terms of content and structure to be discussed at the 28th General Assembly.

The 27th General Assembly directs the next Executive Committee to consider the establishment of a Working Group to address this issue and, further, it suggests the appointment of the following people to the Working Group: Antony Cooper; Horst Kremers; Ann Watts; Peter Fox; Paul Laughton, Paul Uhlir and DT Lee

CODATA 2012

The 27th GA approves and gratefully accepts the invitation of Academia Sinica to host the 23rd International CODATA Conference and 28th General Assembly in Taipei in 2012.

Nominating Committee 2010- 2014

The 27th CODATA General Assembly appoints the following people as members of the Nominating Committee for the period 2011-2014

Chair: Krishan Lal
Members: Steve Rossouw
Bonnie Carroll
Brian Mc Mahon

Out-reach to Scientific Unions

Harmonization of Scientific Standards across the ICSU Community

The 27th General Assembly welcomes the presentation of the proposed activity by the IUGG Delegate in coordinating standards among Scientific Unions. It encourages IUGG, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to assist CODATA in preparing an application to ICSU for possible funding.

Collaboration with the International Union of Biological Sciences, IUBS.

Pursuant to the decision of the Executive Committee in 2010, the 27th General Assembly encourages the IUBS Delegate to liaise with CODATA in organizing a joint IUBS/CODATA meeting around the next ICSU General Assembly in 2011 and welcomes contributions by other Unions and Members.

International Data Academy

In recognizing the excellent discussion paper prepared by CODATA President, Dr. Krishan Lal concerning the possible establishment of the Data Academy, the 27th General Assembly recommends that the proposal be referred to the Executive Committee to consider how to handle the review and evaluation on what the next steps should be, taking into consideration the components relating to the *ad hoc* committees on funding and membership to be appointed by the incoming President.

Contribution by African Scientists

The 27th General Assembly of CODATA, noting the excellent contributions by African scientists at its 22nd International Conference, commends these scientists for highlighting major environmental and sustainable development issues of the continent and for drawing attention to the pressing needs of that region in terms of data collection, research support and education.

Resolutions of Thanks

President:

The 27th CODATA General Assembly sincerely thanks Dr. Lal for his excellent work as President of CODATA and his commitment and dedication to the organization over the last four years. His work and vision ensured that CODATA remains at the forefront of data activities on an international level and is a leader in recognizing and endeavoring to address the challenges facing the data science community in the 21st century.

Outgoing Vice-Presidents and Ordinary Members

CODATA out-going President Dr. Krishan Lal together with delegates of the 27th General Assembly expressed a sincere thank you to the Vice-Presidents Dr. Gordon Wood, Dr. Steve Rossouw and the out-going Ordinary Members for their help and support to him as President and to CODATA as an organization over the past years. It is this support that enabled both him and CODATA to implement the strong scientific agenda of the organization and ensure that CODATA continues to assert a visible and effective strategic leadership role in relation to the policies, management and stewardship of scientific data and information.

National Research Foundation, South Africa

The 27th CODATA General Assembly acknowledges its gratitude and sincere thanks for the tremendous work and the kind hospitality offered by the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa in its hosting and organization of the 22nd International CODATA Conference. It sincerely acknowledges the support of the NRF in facilitating the participation of the scientists from the African continent. It also records its appreciation of the participation of the Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Nadeli Pandor at the Opening Ceremony. Her address sent a powerful message at the start of the three day scientific conference as she identified key ideas relevant to the link between scientific data and sustainable development.

The International Council for Science, ICSU

The 27th CODATA General Assembly acknowledges the strong representation of the major ICSU scientific data bodies in particular the Chair of the Strategic Co-ordinating Committee on Information and Data (SCCID), the Chair and members of the ICSU World Data System, Scientific Committee and the Vice-President of ICSU and Chair of the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review. Their participation greatly enriched the scientific program. It recognizes and appreciates the support of ICSU in the implementation of its scientific agenda.