

STATUTES OF FAGS

I. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF THE FEDERATION

1. A Federation of Permanent Services for Astronomy, Geodesy, Geophysics and related sciences was established under the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in 1956. The principal purpose of the Federation is to encourage, through the allocation of financial support and in other appropriate ways, the analysis of observational data likely to be of long-term value in astronomy, geophysics and related sciences.

II. FUNCTIONS OF THE DATA ANALYSIS SERVICES

2. For the purpose of the present Statutes, a Data Analysis Service, hereinafter called *Analysis Service*, shall be a scientific organization placed under the supervision of one or several Scientific Unions and entrusted with some, or all, of the following tasks:

- to collect, as a continuous activity, information and observational data related to the sciences referred to in paragraph 1, and to put them into machine-readable form;
- to analyse and synthesize them;
- to draw conclusions from them;
- to ensure the homogeneity of the evaluated data;
- to fill gaps in the series of observations;
- to revise long series of observations when appropriate;
- to publish the results obtained;
- to compile and distribute information important for the international scientific communities concerned;
- to assist in the coordination and execution of international observational programmes;
- to supply data on request.

The Analysis Services are encouraged to conduct research necessary for the efficient treatment of data, and for the improvement of results.

3. The scientific management of each Analysis Service shall be ensured by a Director who shall be a member of an Institution of the Service's host country, and shall be nominated by the national authorities and approved by the Union or Unions concerned.

4. Each Analysis Service shall work under the general supervision of a Board which shall be approved by the Union or Unions concerned. The minimum composition of each Board shall include the Director of the Service, a member of the Council of the Federation designated by the Council, and one representative each of the Union or Unions concerned. Each Board shall be international in character and independent of the host Institution.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE FEDERATION

5. The following Analysis Services are members of the Federation:

- **1. International Earth Rotation and Reference System Services (IERS)**
- **2. Bureau Gravimetric International (BGI)**
- **3. International GPS Service for Geodynamics (IGS)**
- **4. International Center for Earth Tides (ICET)**
- **5. Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL)**
- **6. International Service of Geomagnetic Indices (ISGI)**
- **7. Quarterly Bulletin on Solar Activity (QBSA)**
- **8. International Space Environment Service (ISES)**
- **9. World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS)**
- **10. Centre des Données astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS)**
- **11. Sunspot Index Data Centre (SIDC)**
- **12. International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS)**

Other Analysis Services may be added to the Federation if they comply with the requirements outlined in paragraph 6. All members of the Federation have the right of withdrawal.

IV. ADMISSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF ANALYSIS SERVICES

6. Any Data Analysis Service entrusted with tasks outlined under paragraph 2, and fulfilling the conditions set out under paragraphs 3 and 4, or prepared to comply with them, may apply for membership to the Federation. Applications shall be sent to the Secretary of the Federation by, and with, the approval of one of the Unions interested. The applications shall then be submitted to the Council for advice, and the final decision shall be made by ICSU. The same procedure shall apply to withdrawal.

V. ADMINISTRATION

7. The Federation shall be administered by a Council composed of:

- two representatives of each Union having one or more Analysis Services
- the Secretary of the Federation
- the Past Secretary, restricted to the period of two years following his/her term of office
- a representative of ICSU

UNESCO shall be invited to send an observer to the meetings of the Council. Other observers to the meetings may be invited as occasion demands.

8. The Council shall meet every year on the date set in agreement with the Executive Secretary of ICSU. At such meetings, the Council shall approve the financial accounts submitted by the Secretary of the Federation. It shall deliberate and adopt the Budget of the Federation for the forthcoming period of one year. It shall consider any possibilities of cooperation with other international organization or activity. It shall examine the applications for membership, or suggestions from Unions for withdrawal of Analysis Services, and forward them with its comments to ICSU for final decision. Extraordinary meetings of the Council may be convened by the President.

9. The decisions of the Council shall be taken during its meetings by a simple majority vote of the members of the Council then present, but any Union representative can give a proxy vote if his/her colleague is absent. The Chairman has a casting vote.

10. The Council shall elect from its members a President and a Vice-President; the Council shall also appoint a Secretary who need not initially be one of the members.

11. The President and the Vice-president of the Federation shall be elected for periods of four years. They shall not be re-eligible for a consecutive period. To the extent possible, the elections for the officers will be held at different meetings of the Council. If the President resigns or is unable to exercise his function, the Vice-President shall replace him as long as necessary.

12. The President of the Federation shall chair the meetings of the Council and the General Committee (see section VI) and shall be the Federation's representative in all external and internal affairs.

13. The Secretary of the federation, hereinafter called Secretary, shall be appointed for a period of four years, and may be re-appointed for consecutive periods of one year.

14. The Secretary shall be responsible for all matters concerning the finances and the current administration of the Federation; in particular, he/she shall conduct the correspondence, and prepare reports and requests.

15. The Directors of Analysis Services shall provide activity reports and information requested by the Secretary.

VI. FEDERAL INTERACTION

16. The coherence between the members of the Federation shall be furthered, and their cooperation encouraged, by a General Committee composed of:

- the Members of the Council
- the Directors of the Analysis Services
- the Chairmen of the Boards

UNESCO shall be invited to send an observer to the meetings of the General Committee. Other observers to the meetings may be invited or admitted upon their request.

17. The General Committee shall meet at intervals of not less than four years at a place and date determined by the Council at least six months in advance. At such meetings, the General Committee shall obtain an overall review of the activities and future projects of the Analysis Services; it shall discuss matters of common interest including procedures and techniques for the compilation, evaluation, analysis and dissemination of data, and problems of funding; and it may pass recommendations to the Council.

18. Recommendations of the General Committee shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members of the general Committee present, and of any representative nominated to act for an absent member. The Chairman has a casting vote.

VII. FINANCES

19. The operational costs of the FAGS Secretariat shall be a charge of the money granted to FAGS by ICSU.

20. The total annual cost for the FAGS Secretariat including salaries, travel of officers (see paragraph 21), correspondence, etc., shall not exceed the sum to be decided in advance by the Council.

21. The travel expenses of the representatives of the Unions and of ICSU to the meetings of the Council shall be borne by these organizations; the travel expenses of the Secretary and the past Secretary to FAGS Council meetings shall be charged to the funds of the Federation. The expenses of attendance at the meetings of the General Committee of the Federation shall not be reimbursed to the General Committee's members or their representatives as such.

22. The Directors of Analysis Services and Senior Scientists connected with them, are not entitled to receive any honoraria or salaries from FAGS funds.

23. The grants allocated to the Analysis Services by the Federation shall be used entirely for the performance of tasks specified in paragraph 2.

24. The Directors of Analysis Services shall report to the Secretary on the use of funds which have been allocated to them by the Federation. They shall notify the Secretary of any support which they receive directly from any other source.

VII. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

25. Any amendment to the present Statutes must be proposed by the Council of the Federation and ratified by the Unions and the General Committee of ICSU.