



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

Draft Minutes for the  
**52<sup>nd</sup> IUPAC COUNCIL MEETING**  
Wednesday, 23 August 2023, 14.00-17.00 CEST  
Thursday, 24 August 2023, 09.00-16.15 CEST

**Present:** [Delegates of the National Adhering Organisations](#), IUPAC Bureau, IUPAC Officers, IUPAC staff. Not everyone was present throughout, and a few people attended remotely.

These minutes summarise the motions passed by the Council and provide details where needed to explain the background to these decisions. They do not contain the details of all discussions. Agenda points that were only presented or discussed are summarised below the list of motions. Secret ballots were cast electronically, using the platform [ElectionRunner](#). This enabled people following the meeting online to cast their votes as well. Open ballots that were weighted were cast by show of cards and Derek Craston, Fabienne Meyers and Jan Reedijk served as tellers. For these votes, only those present in person could cast votes, as well as for those votes cast by a show of hands.

**Motion 1:** [Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting](#), which was online only, are approved. This motion was **passed** with a show of hands.

**Motion 2:** Council ratifies all decisions taken by the Bureau and Executive Committee, since those approved by the Council at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in Montréal, Canada (online). This motion was **passed** with a show of hands.

The corresponding minutes and list of decisions made are linked below.

- [Council Special Meeting](#): 4 June 2022, online
- [110<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting](#): 24 April 2023, online
- [109<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting](#): 4-6 November 2022, Frankfurt, hybrid (plus [supporting information](#))
- [108<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting](#): 9 April 2022, online
- [107<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting](#): 20 November 2021, online
- [106<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting](#): 1 September 2021, online
- [162<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting](#): 27 March 2023, online
- [161<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting](#): 16 February 2023, continued on 6 March 2023, online
- [160<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting](#): 6 November 2021, online

[Summary of the decisions taken at these meetings.](#)

**Motion 3:** Council formally adopts the Recommendations approved by the Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature and Symbols (ICTNS) and published, or scheduled to be published, in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* from August 2021 to August 2023.

This motion was **passed** with a show of hands.

**Motion 4** concerned the applications for IUPAC National Adhering Organisation membership for two countries – [Honduras, a new application](#), and [Jordan, a reapplication](#). Each of these countries would enter IUPAC with a National Subscription of US\$1000 and with one vote at Council Meetings.

**Motion 4a:** Council approves the National Autonomous University of Honduras as a National Adhering Organization effective 1 January 2024.

This motion was **passed** with a show of hands.

**Motion 4b:** Council approves the Jordanian Chemical Society as a National Adhering Organization effective 1 January 2024.

This motion was **passed** with a show of hands.

**Motion 5** concerned proposals for changes to the [Statutes and Bylaws](#) of the Union. These were voted on by delegation, i.e. by show of cards, and each needed a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes available (on 22 and 23 August 2023: 157, including Jordan and Honduras) to pass (Statute 16.3).

**Motion 5a:** Changing “National Adhering Organization” to “Council Member Organization”.

This motion was **not passed**.

Concerns from the Council included:

- How the national subscription would be determined if one country/territory would have multiple adhering organisations
- Likewise, how representation on various IUPAC bodies would be determined

**Motion 5b:** Changes related to financial status: The Union shall be under no obligation to support the involvement of individuals whose Council Member Organization is more than twelve months in arrears (S9.2).

This motion was **not passed**.

Concerns from the Council included:

- NAOs that have genuine difficulties to pay within each year may end up being excluded from IUPAC’s activities

**Motion 5c:** Voting at Council meetings: Membership has been adjusted to allow voting on admission (B1).

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Motion 6** concerned the incorporation of the International Younger Chemists’ Network (IYCN) as an IUPAC Committee. At their online meeting on 24 April 2023, the Bureau approved the incorporation of the IYCN as an IUPAC Committee with retention of the name IYCN and with autonomous management of their external communications, with the details of the incorporation to be determined by the Science Board. US\$2000 of the proposed 2024/2025 budget is to be allocated to IYCN operational expenses, as for other IUPAC Committees.

**Motion 6:** Council approves the [IYCN as an IUPAC Committee](#) with retention of the name IYCN and with autonomous management of their external communications, with the details of the incorporation to be decided by the Science Board.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards (simple majority).

Remarks from the Council included:

- The IYCN should not be able to speak for IUPAC as a whole.
- The IYCN may need formal Terms of Reference, as for other IUPAC Committees.

**Motion 7** concerned the election of the Officers and Council-elected members of the Executive and Science Boards. According to Statute 5.7.2, the Council must elect the Officers of the Union, and the Elected Members of the Executive Board and the Science Board. All nominations for elections taking place at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting were received within the due date specified by Bylaw 2.2.2.1. New incumbents for the following positions had to be elected: Vice President, Secretary General, six Elected Members of the inaugural Executive Board and, as decided by the Bureau on 22 August 2023, five Council-Elected Members from the chemistry community at large of the inaugural Science Board (Statute 8.2 specifies that Council may elect *up to* five members for the Science Board). The following people were elected by secret ballot, by delegation (i.e. with weighted vote):

#### **Secretary General**

- Zoltan Mester (Canada)

#### **Vice President**

- Mary Garson (Australia)

Please note that the current Vice-President, Ehud Keinan, and the current President, Javier García Martínez, will start their terms as President and Past President, respectively, on 1 January 2024. The term of the current Treasurer, Wolfram Koch, will run until the end of 2025.

#### **Elected Members of the Executive Board**

- Hemda Garelick (UK)
- Richard Hartshorn (New Zealand)
- Bonnie Lawlor (USA)
- Christine Luscombe (Japan)
- Bipul Saha (India)
- Zhigang Shuai (China/Beijing)

#### **Council-Elected Members of the Science Board**

- Eva Åkesson (Sweden)
- Pierre Braunstein (France)
- Alejandra Palermo (UK)
- Peter Schreiner (Germany)
- Chi-Huey Wong (China/Taipei)

**Motion 7:** Council ratifies the election of the new Vice President, Secretary General, Elected Members of the Executive Board and Council-Elected Members of the Science Board at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands.

This motion was **passed**.

**Motion 8** concerned bidding and voting for the location and dates of the 55<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Chemistry Congress. Four bids, namely for Chengdu (China/Beijing), Taipei (China/Taiwan), Prague (Czech Republic and Slovakia) and Düsseldorf (Germany) were presented. The vote for the location and date of the 2029 WCC/GA followed the pattern of the elections used for Officers of the Union (Bylaw 2.2.2.2). As no simple majority was reached in the first round of voting, a second round was needed. In an unusual situation, there was a tie for the lowest-polling bid. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed that both lowest-polling bids should be removed from the ballot for the second round. This decision was a blind decision, i.e., the identities of the lowest-polling bids were not known to the Executive Committee when they made their decision.

**Motion 8:** The Czech Republic and Slovakia joint bid for **Prague** as host of the 55<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Chemistry Congress from 18—24 August 2029 was **passed** by Council in a secret ballot with a simple majority.

**Motion 9:** Council approves the IUPAC Guidelines and the four policies presented by the Committee for Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

The policies in question are:

- [IUPAC Guidelines \(April 2023\)](#)
- [IUPAC Social Media Policy](#)
- [IUPAC Harassment Policy](#)
- [IUPAC Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
- [IUPAC Privacy Policy](#)

**Motion 10** concerned an adjustment to the national subscription fees for the NAOs to IUPAC, according to a decision at the Virtual Council Meeting of 31 July 2018 that the Member Subscriptions should be subject to a review ahead of the 2024 cycle. [This review](#) was conducted by Chris Brett (Past President), Wolfram Koch (Treasurer) and Greta Heydenrych (Executive Director) and the results were presented to the Finance Committee and the Bureau, who approved that this should go before Council for final sign-off. In the light of the Treasurer's financial report, which highlighted longer-term problems with IUPAC's finances that must be addresses in the next biennium ([complete report](#) and [supporting information](#)), for this review period (2024-2027), we agreed on a general annual correction of 7%, to be implemented as follows:

- Adjustment for countries below target is the general correction OR 3%, whichever is bigger, in this case 7%.
- Adjustment for countries on target is the general correction, in this case 7%.
- Adjustment for countries above target is the general correction less 3%, in this case 4%.

**Motion 10:** Council approves the proposed adjustments to the national subscription calculation to safeguard IUPAC's financial future and to ensure that IUPAC's income from national subscriptions reaches the amount forecast by the calculation sooner.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

Remarks from the Council included:

- It could be seen as unfair if the economic conditions of the United States, where the IUPAC Secretariat is located and therefore the seat of business for IUPAC, determine what the NAOs should pay for their membership.
- Some NAOs are struggling with similar issues as IUPAC, i.e. to keep their operations running in an adverse economic environment.

**Motion 11** concerns the [budget proposal](#) for the 2024/2025 biennium. The presentation was somewhat different from that of previous biennia, in that the prior liabilities incurred by projects approved in past years were made explicit. The purpose of this was to sensitise IUPAC Committee members and Council delegates to the fact that project monies are not sequestered upon project budget approval, but are written up as liabilities against IUPAC's future income, a situation that has contributed to financial uncertainty within IUPAC. It was emphasised by the Treasurer that a careful review of IUPAC's overhead expenses will be conducted in the new biennium as a matter of priority.

**Motion 11:** Council approves the recommended 2024-2025 Budget.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

Comments from the Council included:

- Concerns about the high overheads
- Concerns about the longer-term ability to start new projects
- Agreement that a thorough expense review is required

**Motion 12** concerned the approval of Division and Committee arrangements.

**Motion 12a:** Council reauthorizes the Commission on Physicochemical Symbols, Terminology and Units, the Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic Weights, and the IUBMB- IUPAC Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (JCBN).

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Motion 12b:** Council approves the suggested changes in rules for [Division V \(Analytical Chemistry\)](#).

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Motion 12c:** Council approves the results from elections of Division Committee Officers.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Motion 12d:** Council receives the [results \(status on 27 July 2023\)](#) from elections of Titular Members of the Division Committees and the thus far known members of the Science Board.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Motion 13:** Council approves the Composition and [Terms and References](#) of the Committee on Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

This motion was **passed** with a show of cards.

**Agenda points for information and/or discussion only:**

1. The [Statutory Report of President on State of the Union](#) was presented by Javier García Martínez, who highlighted the following initiatives:

- Adapting IUPAC organizational structure to a rapidly changing reality
- Improving our internal and external communication
- Creating a more diverse and inclusive IUPAC
- Digital IUPAC: Making chemical data FAIR

2. The Vice President's [Critical Assessment](#) was presented by Ehud Keinan, who highlighted his priorities for the coming biennium:

- Promoting initiatives that can attract external matching funding.
- Seeking financial support from global foundations, the chemical industry, government agencies, and philanthropy to significantly increase the number of IUPAC's NAOs.
- Enhancing visibility, relevance, and citations of IUPAC's publications.
- Developing programs and financial support to encourage individual membership.
- Expanding IUPAC's portfolio of prizes, awards, and lectureships.
- Enhancing partnership and collaboration with the chemical industry and global organizations.

3. The [Report of the Secretary General](#) was presented by Richard Hartshorn, and highlighted his personal views on the challenges that IUPAC will face in the coming biennia, and what may be required to meet them adequately. The key challenge would be to make most of the opportunity afforded IUPAC by the change in the governance structure.

#### 4. Activities with Partner Organizations

Javier García Martínez presented highlights from IUPAC's collaboration with the **International Younger Chemists' Network**, also in the context of their application to be incorporated into IUPAC's structure (**Motion 6**, passed).

Chris Brett presented highlights of IUPAC's collaboration with the **Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**.

#### 5. Reports of Division Presidents

This was done separately this time by means of posters and informal discussion. The complete reports are behind the links:

- [Discussion points, highlights, plans and priorities](#) for each Division in a single file
- [Each Division's report in its folder](#)

#### 6. Reports of Standing Committee Chairs

This was done separately this time by means of posters and informal discussion. The complete reports are behind the links:

- [Discussion points, highlights, plans and priorities](#) for each Committee in a single file
- [Each Committee's report in its folder](#)

#### 7. Centenary Endowment Fund

Wolfram Koch, IUPAC Treasurer, summarised the situation of the Centenary Endowment Board and its Fund. We should keep on generating ideas, and accept that this may take longer and/or take a different form than previously agreed upon. In the meantime, it is essential that no current or future financial planning of IUPAC should rely on the CEF.

#### 8. Presentation of IUPAC service awards

Javier García Martínez and Ehud Keinan presented IUPAC Service Awards to the following persons for outstanding service to the Union:

- **Helle Møller Johannessen**, as President of the Chemistry and Human Health Division during 2022—2023
- **Pierangelo Metrangolo**, as President of the Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division during 2022—2023
- **Amelia Rauter**, as President of the Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division during 2022—2023
- **Jan Reedijk**, as Chair of the Project Committee during 2022—2023
- **David Shaw**, as President of the Analytical Chemistry Division during 2022—2023
- **Roberto Terzano**, as President of the Chemistry and the Environment Division during 2022—2023
- **Christine Luscombe**, as President of the Polymer Division during 2020—2023
- **Jan Apotheker**, for the launch of *Chemistry Teacher International* in 2019 and serving as Editor-in-Chief during 2019—2023
- **Chris Brett**, as Vice President, President and Past President of the Union during 2018—2023
- **Richard Hartshorn**, as Secretary General of the Union during 2016—2023

#### 9. Plans for the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly and 50<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2025 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Soon Ting Kueh provided an update to the Council on the plans for IUPAC 2025.

Comments from the Council included:

- IUPAC Committees should be consulted on the details of the scientific programme
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