

**STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL
OF THE PROGRAMME ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE
(MAB)**

Article I

An International Co-ordinating Council of the Programme on 'Man and the Biosphere' (hereinafter called 'Council') is hereby set up within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article II¹

1. The Council shall be composed of thirty-four² Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, taking due account of equitable geographical distribution, of the need to ensure appropriate rotation, of the representativeness of these States from the ecological viewpoint in the various continents, and of the importance of their scientific contribution to the international programme.
2. The term of office of the members of the Council shall begin at the close of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Conference following it.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the term of office of one half of the members designated at the first election shall expire at the close of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following the session during which they were elected. The names of these members shall be drawn by lot after the first election by the President of the General Conference, it being understood that the outgoing members shall be replaced by members belonging to the same regional group.
4. Members of the Council shall be immediately eligible for re-election.
5. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.
6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be experts in the field covered by the Programme and chosen from among those persons playing a major part in the implementation of the activities related to the Programme in the said Member States.

¹ Amendments in Article II approved by the General Conference at its 20th Session (1978)

² The General Conference, at its 28th Session (1995), approved an amendment bringing the number of Member States of the Council to thirty-four.

Article III

1. The Council shall normally meet in plenary session once every two years. Extraordinary sessions may be convened under conditions specified in the Rules of Procedure.
2. Each Council member shall have one vote but it may send as many experts or advisers as it deems necessary to sessions of the Council.
3. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article IV

1. The Council shall be responsible for guiding and supervising the planning and the implementation of the Programme on 'Man and the Biosphere', for studying proposals concerning development and modifications of this Programme, for recommending scientific projects of interest to all or to a large number of countries, and assessing priorities among such projects for co-ordinating international co-operation of Member States in the framework of the Programme for assisting in the development of national and regional projects related to the Programme, and for taking any practical or scientific measures that may be required for the successful implementations of the Programme.
2. In carrying out its activities, the Council shall make full use of the facilities offered by the agreements or working arrangements between UNESCO and the other intergovernmental organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2.
3. The Council may consult on scientific questions all appropriate international non-governmental organizations with which UNESCO maintains official relations. The International Council for Science (ICSU) and its affiliate unions and associations and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) may give advice to the Council on matters of a scientific or technical character.
4. The Council shall, wherever necessary, attempt to co-ordinate the Programme on 'Man and the Biosphere' with other international scientific programmes.

Article V

1. The Council may set up *ad hoc* committees for the study of specific problems. Membership of such *ad hoc* committees shall also be open to Member States of UNESCO, which are not represented in the Council.
2. The Council may delegate to any such committee the powers that it may need in regard to the programme for which it has been set up.
3. Taking into account other relevant international activities, the Council may establish as required working groups of specialists to examine certain aspects of the Programme. These working groups, whose members shall serve in a personal capacity, may include nationals of Member States of UNESCO which are not represented on the Council.

Article VI

1. At the beginning of its first session, the Council shall elect a chairman and five³ vice-chairmen. These shall form the Council's Bureau⁴.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it.
3. Meeting of the Bureau may be convened in between meetings of the Council, at the request of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO or of any one member of the said Bureau.
4. The Council shall elect a new Bureau whenever its own membership is changed by the General conference in accordance with Article II, above. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected⁵.

Article VII⁶

1. Representatives of the Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council may nevertheless attend, as observers, meeting of the Council and its committees.
2. Representatives of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.
3. Representatives of the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council and the World Conservation Union may take part, without the right to vote in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of working groups.
4. The Council shall determine the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations, and in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency and Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, will be invited to attend its meetings, without the right to vote, whenever questions of common interest are discussed.

Article VIII

1. The secretariat of the Council shall be provided by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who shall

³ The General Conference, at its 28th Session (1995) approved an amendment bringing the number of vice-chairmen to five.

⁴ The Council, since its first session, has always *de facto* also elected a Rapporteur.

⁵ The amendment to Article VI.4 was approved by the General Conference at its 23rd Session (1985).

⁶ The amendment in Article VII was approved by the General Conference at its 25th Session (1989).

place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation. Staff members of the other organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2, above may be assigned to the secretariat by agreement with the said organizations.

2. The secretariat shall provide the necessary services for the sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau, committees and working groups. Arrangements may be made with other organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2, for providing such services to particular working groups of the Council.
3. The secretariat shall take any day-to-day measures required in order to co-ordinate the execution of the international programmes recommended by the Council, it shall fix the date of the Council's sessions in accordance with the Bureau's instructions, and shall take all steps required to convene such sessions.
4. The secretariat shall assemble all proposals sent in by members of the Council, other Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations concerned with regard to the formulation of the international projects under the Programme and shall prepare them for examination by the Council; it shall maintain liaison with the national committees established by Member States for the execution of the Programme in accordance with the invitation contained in resolution 2.3131 adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session, and inform them of the Council's recommendations.
5. In addition to the services to be rendered to the Council, the secretariat shall co-operate closely with the secretariats of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraphs 2 and 3 above; it shall for this purpose take part in inter-secretariat co-ordination meetings as necessary.

Article IX

1. The International programmes of observation and investigation recommended by the Council to Member States for concerted action on their part, shall be financed by the participating Member States, according to the commitments which each State is willing to make. The Council may, however, make recommendations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the other organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraphs 2 and 3 above, concerning assistance to Member States for the development of environmental observation and research or the implementation of some particular aspect of the Programme. If the said organizations accept such recommendations and if the Member States concerned signify their agreement, these organizations shall undertake to finance the related activities in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions and regulations.
2. Member States shall bear the expense of participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council and its committees. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization as well as from such additional resources as may be made available by other organizations of the United Nations System.

3. Voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as trust funds in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and administered by the Director-General of that Organization. The Council shall make recommendations to the Director-General on the allocation of such contributions for international projects under the Programme.

Article X

The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at each of its ordinary sessions. These reports shall be communicated for information to the other international organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraphs 2 and 3 above.
