

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Article I

An International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves, hereinafter referred to as the committee, is hereby established in accordance with the Work Plan for sub-programme II.2.3 in the Draft Programme and Budget for 1992-93 (26 C/5), is recognized as the primary scientific and technical Committee body advising the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and the Director-General of UNESCO on matters pertaining to the WNBR.

Article II

1. The Committee shall advise the Director-General of UNESCO and the MAB-ICC on scientific and technical matters concerning the nomination of new sites and, changes and periodic reviews of sites already included in the WNBR, as well as the development, operation and monitoring of the WNBR which they constitute in accordance with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework for the WNBR. The Committee shall also advise the Director-General of UNESCO on any other aspects of the MAB Programme as requested by the Director-General or the MAB-ICC.
2. In the performance of its task, the Committee shall be guided by the Recommendations of the MAB-ICC and by the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the WNBR adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 28th session under resolution 2.4 and the Madrid Action Plan adopted by the 20th session of the MAB-ICC in February 2008 in Madrid, Spain.

Article III

1. The Committee shall be composed of twelve members, serving in a personal capacity. The members shall be appointed by the Director-General, after consultation with the Member States and or the National Committees/focal points for the Man and the Biosphere Programme of the countries concerned.
2. The terms of office of members shall be four years. Terms of office of members may be renewed for one additional period of four years by the Director-General. In event of death or resignation of a member of the Committee, the Director-General shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.
3. The members of the Committee shall be selected for their scientific qualifications and for their experience in promoting and implementing biosphere reserve concept. Special attention shall be given to gender balance. Membership of the Committee shall be in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and take account of the bio-geographical diversity of the UNESCO Member States.
4. The Director-General may invite to sessions of the Committee, as consultant-observers, persons who by reason of their functions or knowledge can assist the work of the Committee.
5. The Director-General may extend invitations to send observers to meetings of the Advisory Committee to:
 - (a) organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;

- (b) Intergovernmental organizations; and
- (c) International non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with international non-governmental organizations.

The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may send representatives to meetings of the Committee.

Article IV

1. The Director-General shall convene the Committee at least once a year.
2. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.
3. The Committee shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure that shall be submitted to the Director-General for approval.

Article V

1. At each of its sessions, the Committee shall elect a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, and a rapporteur, who shall form the Bureau of the Committee and who shall remain in office until the following session.
2. The Chairperson or acting chairperson shall represent the Committee at the meetings of the MAB-ICC and its Bureau.

Article VI

The travel and subsistence expenses of the members of the Committee, as referred in paragraph 1 of Article 3, shall be borne by UNESCO, in accordance with the provisions of its travel rules.

Article VII

1. The Director-General shall designate members of the UNESCO Secretariat to represent him/her on the Committee and its Bureau.
2. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be the Secretariat of the MAB Programme of UNESCO.

Article VIII

1. The agenda for the sessions of the Committee shall be drawn up by the Director-General, normally after consulting the Chairperson.
2. After each session, the Committee shall present a report on its work and its recommendations to the Director-General. The Director-General shall inform the Executive Board and the MAB-ICC of the results of the Committee's proceedings.

Article IX

The Executive Board may terminate the mandate and/or amend the Statutes of the Committee provided that an item to this effect has been inscribed in the agenda of the Executive Board in accordance with rules and procedures.